

**Christians on Campus**  
**Acts Bible Study**  
**Summer 2020**

**The Vision of the Body of Christ—the Corporate Christ**

- I. While Saul of Tarsus was on the way to Damascus, a heavenly vision came to him, and this vision revolutionized him—Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-16; 26:13-19.
- II. “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:4): This is a corporate “Me,” comprising Jesus the Lord and all His believers; He is the Head, and we are His Body as one person, one new man—Eph. 2:15; Col. 3:10-11.
- III. “This man is a chosen vessel to Me” (Acts 9:15): The Body of Christ is God’s great corporate vessel to contain Him and be filled with Him for His expression—Eph. 3:16-19.

**Scripture Reading:**

**Acts 26:19**

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

**As you read** through the following passage, consider how the vision Saul saw on the road to Damascus affected his person and actions. Highlight verses that show how Saul changed after he saw the vision.

**Acts 9:1-31**

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? <sup>5</sup>And he said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute. <sup>6</sup>But rise up and enter into the city, and it will be told to you what you must do. <sup>7</sup>And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>And Saul rose from the ground; and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. And they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And he was three days without seeing, and he neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup>And there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, Rise up and go to the lane called Straight, and seek in the house of Judas a man from Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying; <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he may receive his sight. <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many concerning this man, how many evil things he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Your name. <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; <sup>16</sup>for I will show him how many things he must suffer on behalf of My name. <sup>17</sup>And Ananias went away and entered into the house; and laying his hands on him, he said, Saul, brother, the Lord has sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road on which you were coming—so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight and rose up and was baptized. <sup>19</sup>And once he had taken food, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples in Damascus for some days.

<sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, that this One is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, Is this not the one who ravaged those who call upon this name in Jerusalem and came here for this, that he might bring them bound before the chief priests? <sup>22</sup>But Saul was all the more empowered, and he confounded the Jews dwelling in Damascus by proving that this One is the Christ. <sup>23</sup>And as

a considerable number of days were being fulfilled, the Jews took counsel together to do away with him; <sup>24</sup>But their plot was made known to Saul. And they also watched the gates closely, both day and night, so that they might do away with him. <sup>25</sup>But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket. <sup>26</sup>And when he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples; yet all feared him, not believing that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup>But Barnabas took hold of him and led him to the apostles, and he related to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup>And he was with them, going in and going out in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup>And he spoke and disputed with the Hellenists, but they attempted to do away with him. <sup>30</sup>But when the brothers realized it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him forth to Tarsus. <sup>31</sup>So then the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it was multiplied.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. <sup>13</sup>For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

**Ephesians 3:16-19**

<sup>16</sup>That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, <sup>17</sup>that Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>may be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are <sup>19</sup>and to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

**Questions for Fellowship:**

1. In Acts 9:1 Saul was “breathing threatening and murder against \_\_\_\_\_,” but in verse 4, the Lord says, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting \_\_\_\_\_?” What was the vision Paul saw here and its significance? Try and explain this to one another.
2. How did this vision change Saul’s person and actions? Fill out this table of Saul’s experience with other members of the Body:

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>How did Saul interact with them?</b>
v. 1		
v. 17		
v. 25		
v. 26		
v. 27		
v. 28		
v. 30		

3. What does it mean for us to have a vision of the Body of Christ (Acts 26:19)? How should this affect our Christian and church life?
4. What is implied in the word vessel (9:15)? How can we as chosen vessels be filled? What is the result of our being filled (consider Ephesians 3:16-19)?