

- This is the chapter known as Pauls conversion.
 - ◇ We talk a lot about the apostle Paul and his intellect and achievements, but I hope what we realize through this story is that is is God that is the real genius not Paul.
 - Paul even wrote, I believe about himself...

1Co 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Mosaic law? Where is the debater of this age? Has God not made the wisdom of the world foolish?
 - ◇ ...the Glory to God.
 - ◇ We have already been introduced to the apostle Paul back in the transition between chapters **7 and 8**, under the name of Saul [Read]
 - ◇ Saul was brought into the story with “Men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen” in ch. 6
 - Also translated as the Libertines meaning liberated.
- Prayer
- A few years have probably passed by since Stephens death and ch. 8

Acts 9:1-9

- **9:5**; Saul addresses the voice as “Lord”, meaning “Sir”. He understood he was lesser then the power that just took control of him, but he did not immediate accept it as God.
- I would like to note that others saw the light but did not hear the voice.
 - ◇ Jesus light is often obvious to everyone around us, but He is still very personal.
- Notice how Jesus attaches the church to himself physically.
 - ◇ Picture of Literal body

1Co 12:12-31

⊞ Transition comment

Acts 9:10-19

- I found **JonCoursen's** comment really interesting...
 - ◇ Almost like God is making redemption with the names Ananias, Judah and Saul.
- Lets look at names a little bit, we all know that Saul later on in scripture is addressed as Paul.
 - ◇ First place in Bible Acts 13, But doesn't get his mission until Acts 15
 - ◇ Saul (H7586); meaning asked
 - ◇ Paul (Roman)(G3972); meaning small
 - Possibly his Roman birth name.
 - Possibly embracing his mission to the gentiles
 - "least of the Apostles"

1Co 9:22 To the weak I became weak in order to gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that by all means I may save some.

- Contrast with Gandhi, "I am a Hindu, I am a Muslim, I am a Christian, I am a Sikh -- I follow the basic principles of all religions."
 - Someone has it right and some one has it just a little bit wrong.
- Speaking of "just a litle bit wrong" I'd like to bring attention to verse 6
 - ◇ Omitted from Vulgate, the KJV line, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do"
 - ◇ Most of the older comentaries I've read read like sermons based on this verse.
 - ◇ The premis insn't wrong, like the quote from Gandhi.
- But that verse continues in Jesus saying "Rise up", **9:11** "Get up", **9:15** "Go"....
 - ◇ I find that most the time s in the scripture, God call someone to action. It is not often God calls one to do nothing.
 - ◇ He may say "stay" or "wait" but it is generally that gets wraped in a an internal issue we need to work on, patience, humility, planning.
 - ◇ But often he calls us to action, even when everything else call us to wait.
- Verse **13** is a great example.
 - ◇ Everything in Ananias body says don't go, but God says Go.
 - ◇ **2Ti 1:7** For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control.
 - ◇ **Rom 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery leading again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "*Abba*, Father."
 - Discernment of the Lords will is more dificult than what is usually presented.
 - It is so often thrown out there in conversation, in our Christianese culture, without recognizing the dificulty, true humility it takes and some times inapprehensible
 - This does not seem to be one of those cases, God has spoken very clearly to Ananias.
 - But that is not how it always is...
 - I have noticed an interesting paradigm in my life when in come to recognizing Gods will.
 - ‡ There have been times that I thought I discerned God will and took action.
 - ‡ In analysing it with hindsight I realized that it was not fully the will of the Lord it was largely executed on my own desire.
 - ‡ Other times I say this is clearly not the Lords will, but He blesses things around it.
 - Rom 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
 - You see the paradigm is Gods will may not be done but He blesses those around it because they are seeking Him.
 - Gods will may be done and it just looks wrong to us.
 - ‡ Like Ananias sees God leading him to a murderer.

- But “according to [Gods] purpose” means we may not understand it.
- In Verse 15-16;
 - ◊ Gods is sovereign and choses Saul to be his instrument.
 - ◊ And in being his instrument, “he must suffer”...not what you would expect.
- You have heard me aske the question,
 - ◊ Why does God use such miraculous methods for to convert Saul?
 - ◊ We have the advantage in being able to look back on history and see how Gods purpose worked out in Paul's life.
 - ◊ Paul was very much perfectly prepared and selected for this task.
 - ◊ Much in the way that Pharaoh was perfectly prepared and selected for his task.
- We are told in Act 22 that Paul was Trained by Gamaliel
 - ◊ Gamaliel valued his students understanding the gentile (and especially the Greek) culture.
 - ◊ Paul quotes from three poets who were well-known in that day:
 - Aratus [Poet 300 BC] ([Act 17:28](#)), .
 - Menander [Greek playwright 300 BC] ([1Co 15:33](#)),
 - Epimenides [600 BC] ([Tit 1:12](#)).
 - ◊ It has been proposed that Gamaliel lead the “Synagogue of the Freedmen” from Acts 6:9, in which he was preparing Pau (then Saul) to take leadership.

Acts 6:9 But some men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, as well as some from Cilicia and the province of Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen.
 - ◊ We see many cultures included in this synagogue and can understand the importance of being trained in the Greek and gentile cultures that they come from.
- Paul was born a Roman and spent some of his life in Tarsis. Thus he was educated in Latin and Roman culture.
- And of course Paul was a master at the Jewish Law.

Gal 1:14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my nation, and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.
- Purpose, gifts, illustration of lack there of.

Acts 9:20-22

- 9:19; Discussion of “born again”...immediately baptized.
 - ◇ Regenerated Heart
 - Immediate
 - ◇ Sanctification [Hagiazo]
 - Slow process
- 9:22; he became more capable...or became stronger...in his defense of the Messiah

- These are the repercussions of following Jesus

Acts 9:23-25

- We understand from **Gal 17-18** that “When many days had passes” adds up to about three years
- Paul went off to Arabia
 - ◇ Here again God says “Go”
 - ◇ But I bet you it wasn't Go and wait and do nothing.
- When Paul returns he trys on his preaching hat and it doesn't go so well.
 - ◇ And he is moved to visit the Apostles in Jerusalem

Acts 9:26-31

- 9:27; Takes one person to trust.
- 9:27; the apostle was James (Gal 1:17)
- 9:31; Really showing that Saul had a large part in motivating the persecution.

- From this point on it adds up to another 8-10 years before Paul gets his mission to take the word to the gentiles.

NOTES

Acts 9:1-2

- 9:1; Why was Saul so bent on murdering the Lords disciples?

Acts 9:10-19

- 9:9; Is there something in 3 days?

⊗ Transition comment

|**REF** Scripture will be |