

A TRANSFORMED LIFE: THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

(Acts 9:1-19)

I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (1-2)

II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)

III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (8-12)

A. The Conversion of Saul who becomes Paul the Apostle (9:1-19)

1. The other religious leaders in Jerusalem seemed satisfied after they had run the believers out of Jerusalem; Saul however, was breathing _____ and the _____ of Christians. (v. 1)

2. In his religious _____ Saul was going to hunt down those who “were of _____” living in Damascus and bring them _____ back the 150 miles to Jerusalem. (v. 2, cf. John 14:6)

* What did this involve?

3. Before entering Damascus, the _____, _____ Christ personally appeared to Saul and he _____ interacted with Jesus. (vv. 3-4, cf. 9:17, 27; 22:14; 26:16; 1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8)

* What does the question “*Why are you persecuting Me?*” tell us about Christ and His Church? (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:12-16; Col. 1:18; 2:11-12, 19)

4. Jesus revealed His identity to Saul (v. 5), and at this pivotal moment, while trembling he realized the _____ of the _____ he had been rejecting up to this point and asked, “_____, *what do You want me to do?*” (v. 6, cf. 26:16-18; Gal. 1:11-12)

* Is there a contradiction between Acts 9:7 and 22:9?

5. The man who would strike the _____ was struck _____; the proud Pharisee was _____ and led by the hand like a helpless child. (v. 8)

6. After being blinded by the light, for the next three days this confused man _____ and tried to figure out what had just happened; it _____ him so _____, he didn't eat nor drink anything. (v. 9)

7. While this godly disciple Ananias was _____ to do God's will in restoring Saul's sight, he certainly was _____ excited to obey it, knowing Saul's vicious _____. (vv. 10-14)

8. The Lord explained to Ananias that Paul was being given an important _____ to the _____ (Gal. 1:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:9-12; Col. 1:24-25), and that he would have to _____ many things for it. (vv. 15-16, cf. 1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-28; 12:7-10)

9. Encouraged by the words of the Lord, Ananias _____ Paul and actually called him "_____"; by the laying on of hands, Paul received his _____ and was _____ with the Spirit. (vv. 17-18a)

10. Though the passage doesn't explicitly say when Paul was born again, the details of the story show it was _____ he was _____.

11. Paul was water _____, he ate food, and spent some time _____ Christian _____ for the very first time with the saints in Damascus. (vv. 18b-19)

* What can you learn from all of this?