

THE HEAVENLY VISION

Acts 9:3-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Different accounts of the conversion of Saul Act 9, 22,26 one given by Luke, the others given by Paul himself
- B. Saul authorized to go to Damascus Acts 26:12
 - 1. Authority from the elders Acts 22:5
 - 2. Bring Christians for punishment
- C. Experience on the road Acts 22:6,7
 - 1. Saw a great light, heard a voice
 - 2. Recognized the voice of the Lord
- D. As Paul relates the account to Agrippa he says he saw a vision Acts 26:19
- E. Examine this vision to see just exactly what Paul saw

DISCUSSION:

I. HE WAS IGNORANT 1Tim 1:13

- A. Brought up before Gamaliel Acts 22:3
 - 1. A very distinguished teacher of his time
 - 2. Taught according to the perfect manner of the Law
- B. Profited (progressed) above equals Gal 1:14
- C. Paul educated yet ignorant
 - 1. A blasphemer, persecutor, injurious
 - 2. Because of ignorance
- D. Wisdom or knowledge we need is from above
 - 1. Lack wisdom - ask of God Jas 1:5
 - 2. Read and understand Paul's knowledge Eph 3:4

II. HE WAS A SINNER 1Tim 1:15

- A. His Hebrew status Phil 3:5,6
 - 1. Proves he was a Jew (birth, nationality, religion)
 - 2. Still recognized he was a sinner
- B. Thought he was doing right Acts 26:9
 - 1. Lived in good conscience Acts 23:1
 - 2. Thoughts contrary to (name) authority of Christ
 - 3. Recognized he was a sinner
- E. Had to do something to be saved Acts 22:16

III. HIS TEACHER WAS WRONG Acts 22:3

- A. Few like to admit their teacher(parents) are wrong
- B. Paul saw that even Gamaliel could be wrong
 - 1. A very distinguished Jewish Rabbi of his time
 - 2. Held in high esteem by the Jews
- C. Paul obeyed the one he had hated Acts 26:9,19
 - 1. Author of eternal salvation Heb 5:8,9
 - 2. But only to those that obey him
- D. Put no trust in man (flesh & blood) Gal 1:8-12
 - 1. Though we or an angel preach any other gospel
 - 2. Paul didn't receive this of man but by revelation

IV. HE HAD TO BREAK WITH TRADITION Acts 22:3

- A. Look at traditional background Gal 1:14
 - 1. Born a Jew at Tarsus
 - 2. Taught the law in Jerusalem by Gamaliel a distinguished teacher of his time
 - 3. Taught perfect manner of law of the fathers
 - 4. Profited (progressed) above his equals
 - 5. Exceedingly zealous of traditions
- B. Had to make a choice Phil 3:7
 - 1. Those things in which he had gain
 - 2. He gave up for Christ
- C. The cost was great (gave up all things) Phil 3:8
 - 1. A high position in the Jewish religion
 - 2. Respect of great men
 - 3. Counted it all but refuse (garbage) to win Christ
- D. Reward was greater
 - 1. Suffering not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us Rom 8:18
 - 2. A far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory 2Cor 4:17
 - 3. A crown of righteousness 2Tim 4:6-8

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must realize we need to know God's word
- B. We must realize we are sinners and need remission of sins
- C. We must understand that our teacher could be wrong and what we have believed in the past could be wrong
- D. We don't have a heavenly vision to show us this - all we have is the word of God, which must convict us Acts 2:37; Jhn 20:30-31; Jas 1:21
- E. Why not believe it and obey it today