

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 20: Grace Triumphant

READ Acts 9:1-18 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

How miraculous do you think was your conversion to Christ? The story of the sudden conversion of Saul, who had vigorously persecuted the followers of Jesus, presents this and every conversion as a miracle of God's grace. Every conversion is the result of the direct intervention in history of the risen and exalted Jesus as the Lord of the church. The conversion of Saul resulted in Him being joined to the church and commissioned to play a major role in the church's mission.

Big idea: Christ's grace is sufficient to save us from our rebellion and sustain us in our service

Questions:

1. What was Saul's occupation before being converted and what do you think motivated him? See 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 26:9-11.

What do you think Saul had to lose in surrendering to Christ?

2. While there may be many differences between Saul's conversion experience and others, what are some similarities? See 9:3-9; Rom 1:1-5; 1 Cor 15:8-10; Gal 1:15-16 (note, "Son to me" is better translated "Son in me" from the Greek).

What do these passages teach about God's grace in salvation?

3. What did Jesus liken persecuting Christians to? How does this make you think about the church of Christ, those in it, and Christ's role in building it?

4. **Challenge:** Jesus told Paul, "It is hard for you to kick against the goads" (Acts 26:14). What does this mean and what lesson do you learn?

5. What role did Ananias play in Saul's conversion? How was his reaction different to Jonah's?

What do you learn about forgiveness from Ananias' obedient response?

Challenge: Are Christians called to forgive all people? How might forgiveness be different from reconciliation? Why is distinguishing between the two helpful?

6. Who do you need to forgive and what might you do about it?

7. What was Saul's special task and how do his sufferings help or hinder his God-given call? See 9:15-16; 2 Cor 4:11.

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the Lord for His triumphant grace in your salvation in Him and service to Him

Confess: any sins of unforgiveness you have toward another person

Pray: for sustaining grace to remain steadfast in well doing despite current obstacles