

16th March 2008

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Readings : Acts ch 9 v 1-6
1 Tim ch 1 v 12-16

There are many stories in the Bible about how people became Christians. Some of them simply believed. Saul, who after conversion became Paul the apostle, has a more dramatic story. He fell to the ground and heard the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's conversion is a pattern. It is a graphic set of principles that happen to any soul who can say "I am a Christian".

He was a persecutor of Christians but in a matter of days a change was witnessed by others in his life. To be a true Christian today a radical change will be made in your life.

Paul was a sinner. He was a very religious man, very moral, a student of the scriptures but he was still in his sins.

Did he have peace? Was he going to heaven? Were his sins forgiven?

No

Do you have peace?

You can have this peace for nothing.

Religion can be a great snare. Many think God wants them to be religious and they are depending on what they do, where they go and what they join to get them to heaven. God wants something real.

Paul was against the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a good man opposed to the Lord. He must have heard about Him. You would think he would want to follow Him. What was it that annoyed him? Perhaps he knew that the Lord Jesus Christ claimed to be the only Saviour of sinners. Paul was dependent on his religion and he might not have liked that.

We do not believe that all religions are equal. There is only one Saviour.

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6)

"Neither is there salvation in any other"

The Lord Jesus Christ can be your Saviour. There are many who will not have that. Trust in Christ and Christ alone.

Paul was heading on a collision course with the Lord. There could only be one outcome. Victory for the Lord.

Paul received mercy - "I obtained mercy" (1 Tim 1:13)

The Lord saw Paul's attitude, actions and heart. There is mercy for us. God was patient with Paul and has also been patient with us. We have all sinned but He is longsuffering. He will not suffer us forever.

Have you ever obtained mercy?

Bartimeus was a blind beggar. He heard Jesus was passing and called "Jesus thou son of David have mercy on me" (Mark 10:47). He called on mercy and received it. So could we.

There came a light from heaven. Paul's heart was in darkness.

Are you in darkness?

We need light for direction and comfort. The human heart is dark with sin and we need the light from God in heaven.

When the light dawns everything becomes clear. Life is empty! What about my sins?

God will shine into your heart.

Paul fell to the earth. He was humbled. Paul was a proud man before you become a Christian you have to get rid of your pride.

There was a proud man and a humble man who went to pray in the temple. The humble man felt God was holy and he was sinful - he smote his breast and looked down asking for mercy but the proud man was self righteous and looked upwards to heaven (Luke 18:9-14).

Everyone is a sinner. Have to trust in the Lord to be saved.

Paul didn't believe he had risen from the dead. Who was this speaking? "Why persecutist thou me?"

Where is he now - Glorified in heaven exalted at Gods right hand.

Paul watched Stephen being martyred. Stephen looked up and saw the lord in heaven on the right hand of God.

The Lord spoke Paul's name. He knows our names and everything about us. He knows our sins.

Are you on the wrong track?

The Lord Jesus is appealing to you. He is calling for you.

Paul trembled perhaps in fear and astonishment. He realised Jesus was alive and willing to forgive him.

He is a wonderful Saviour willing to save.

Paul wanted to belong to Him and trust Him. - "Lord what will you have me to do?"

Jesus wants you to trust Him.

What does he want me to do?

Trust Him so he can save you.

Just say in your heart. I trust you. Come into my heart.

There have been millions saved since Paul. You could be amongst them too.