

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #21 -Recount of Paul's Conversion

Scripture Reading: Acts 22:12-16

Introduction:

1. The Jews were beating Paul. He now tries to persuade them to come to Christ.
2. Paul's great desire is for others to convert to Christ just as he had.

I. HIS FORMER LIFE -22:1-5

A. His zeal for the Law

1. He was trained at the feet of Gamaliel
 - a. He was a teacher of the law -Ac 5:34
 - b. He was held in respect by all the people
 - c. He was a leader who took charge of the situation with the apostles
 2. He had the same zeal for the law as they are displaying
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- #### B. He persecuted Christians
1. He persecuted them to the point of death
 2. He put both men and women into prison
 3. The high priest bear witness of Paul's previous zeal against the Way
 - a. He received letters from the high priest to bind those in Damascus and bring them back to Jerusalem.
 - b. No one could honestly doubt the zeal for the law the overflowed in the heart of Saul

II. HIS CONVERSION

A. Road to Damascus -22:6-11

1. People knew that Paul was coming to Damascus to persecute Christians -9:14
2. The Lord appeared to him in a light from heaven
 - a. Saul was persecuting Jesus, not the church
 - b. Those with Saul saw the light, heard the voice, but could not understand what was being said.
3. Paul knew something needed to be done
 - a. He realized the gravity of his predicament
 - b. He was told to enter Damascus and it would be told him what he must do.

B. Instructions for Salvation Given -22:12-16

1. Ananias lays hands on him to restore his sight
2. He informs Saul that he will know God's will and testify of Him.
3. He was told to rise and be baptized -vs. 22

III. HIS TRANSFORMATION

A. He preached the gospel

1. Those in Jerusalem would not receive him; Jesus tells him to depart
2. Paul believes that if the people could see his transformation, they would believe
 - a. He reminds the crowd of his former life
 - b. He reminds them of his consent against Steven
3. The Lord makes it clear that they will not receive him. They saw him as a traitor.

4. The Lord sends Paul to the Gentiles. This sets off the crowd against Paul.

B. Application of Paul's recount of his conversion

1. Everyone has had sin in their life -Ro 6:23; 1Jn 1:8-10
2. Transformation through the blood of Jesus is possible
 - a. We have redemption through His blood -Ep 1:7
 - b. God's love was demonstrated for us through His death on the cross -Ro 5:6-9
 - c. We are cleansed when buried with Christ in baptism for the remission of sins.
3. Anyone with the heart and desire to change their life and live for Jesus can.

Conclusion:

1. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus changes lives.
2. Don't allow the past to dictate your future!