

The Church: DEFINED

Study Questions

Week 14

The gospel, or good news, about Jesus is closely associated by the Apostle Paul with “the power of God” for salvation (Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 1:18). You could say that Paul had authority on the matter! The power of God had knocked him off his feet. The power of God had transformed him from persecutor to being persecuted. The power of God assigned him to suffer rather than causing suffering. Almost overnight, his friends and enemies traded positions. It was about as dramatic a shift as we could imagine. Gospel transformation isn’t always so well documented, but the same power of God is still at work today.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 9:1-22

CONNECT & OBSERVE

1. How is life for you as this time of social distancing and disruption continues?
2. What did you find most significant from Sunday’s sermon?
3. Read the passage in Acts. What questions come to mind as you consider these verses?

LEARN

4. Verses 1-2 set the stage for Saul’s unlikely conversion. Damascus is a city about 135 miles from Jerusalem, so what does this say about the spread of Christianity to this point?
5. The encounter with Jesus is described in verses 3-6. How can Jesus accuse Saul of persecuting *Him* (vv. 4-5) when Jesus and Saul apparently haven’t been together prior to this?
6. Verses 7-19 tell us that Saul was blind for three days and did not regain sight until Ananias placed his hands on Saul. What role might physical blindness have played in helping Saul (ironically) see the truth about Jesus?

APPLY

7. Treatment of Jesus’ followers is closely linked with treatment of Himself (see also Matt 25:31-46). Do you think about this association when you think about the church? What impact should this have on how we relate to each other?

8. Saul was blinded by the light of Jesus' true identity. Similarly, he could not see clearly until he accepted it. How well does this relate to your own story of becoming a follower of Jesus?

9. Saul's transformation was so radical that Ananias and the others who heard him in Damascus were stunned! How could this be the same man?! In what ways has your life been transformed by this same power of God?

10. If you haven't already, share your needs with each other and take time to pray together.