

## Saul's Birth and Religion

### I. Saul - a Zealous, Blameless, Religious Man

#### Acts 22:3

I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city and trained at the feet of Gamaliel, according to the strictness of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are today.

#### Philippians 3:5-6

- 5 Circumcised the eighth day; of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
- 6 As to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless.

#### Acts 9:1-2

- 1 But Saul, still breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest
- 2 And asked for letters from him to Damascus for the synagogues, so that if he found any who were of the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

### II. Saul Met the Lord Jesus

#### Acts 26:12-16

- 12 Engaged in these things, I journeyed to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests.
- 13 At midday, on the way, I saw, O king, a light from heaven beyond the brightness of the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me.
- 14 And when we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.
- 15 And I said, Who are You, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.
- 16 But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

#### A. God Revealed His Son IN Paul

##### Galatians 1:15-16

- 15 But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
- 16 **To reveal His Son in me** that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood,

##### Colossians 1:27

To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory...

##### Romans 8:29

Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers...

#### B. Saul saw the Body of Christ

##### Acts 9:4-5

- 4 And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you **persecuting Me**?
- 5 And he said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, **I am Jesus**, whom you persecute.

**1 Corinthians 12:12**

For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many are **one body, so also is the Christ.**

**Matthew 25:39-40**

39 And when have we seen You sick or in prison and have come to You?

40 And the King will answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of these, the least of My brothers, you have done it to Me.

**Acts 9:23, 25**

23 And as a considerable number of days were being fulfilled, the Jews took counsel together to do away with him;

25 But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

### **III. Saul's Response to the Heavenly Vision**

**Acts 26:19**

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision...

**Philippians 3:7-9**

7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

9 And **be found in Him**, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,

### **IV. Going Along with the Lord to Carry Out His Plan**

**Romans 12:1-2**

1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but **be transformed by the renewing of the mind** that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

**Romans 12:11**

Do not be slothful in zeal, but be **burning in spirit**, serving the Lord.

**Romans 14:19**

So then let us pursue the things of peace and the things for building up one another.

**1 Corinthians 14:4b**

...but he who prophesies builds up the church.