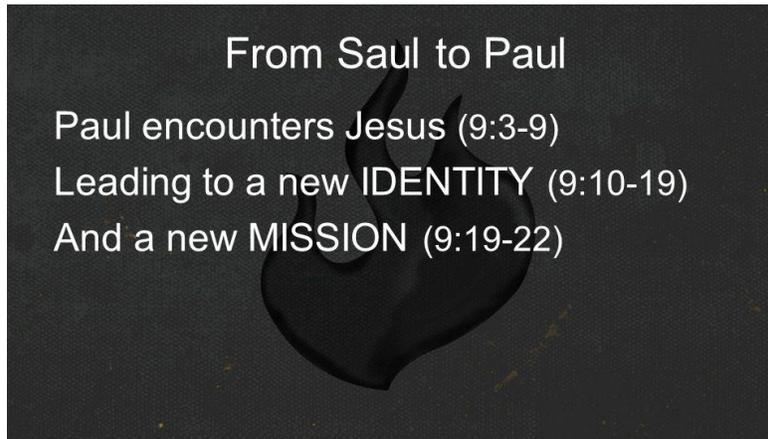


SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017

THEME – CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

UNIT III – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL AS A CHRISTIAN IN GOD’S NEW TESTAMENT COMMUNITY

“A TRANSFORMED WITNESS FOR GOD’S COMMUNITY”



Sunday School Lesson No. XII – August 20, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III ~ Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Acts 9:1-11, 15-19

Required Reading: Acts 9:1-31

Motto Text: Acts 9:17, *“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.”*

Reliable Resources: Precepts for Living, UMI; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Logos Electronic Library; The Book of Acts by E. C. Gillentine; George Brooks Preaching Commentary

INTRODUCTION

As we review the early history of God’s New Testament Community called the Church, we have seen successes as well as sinful challenges. Such is life for all who walk in Christ Jesus, but the over-whelming theme that rescues our attention is: *“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* I John 4:4

Though we left the Church’s deacon Stephen standing for God and losing his life (Acts 7:54-60) and the successful evangelism of Philip (Acts 8) we also see a Jewish zealot named Saul appear to raise much havoc among God’s people that it appeared there was no hope (Acts 8:1-3)! But beloved, God is faithful and the words of Jesus come immediately to my mind in Matthew 16:18, *“...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* God’s church is here to strive and thrive according to His will. In our text in Acts 9, God raises one of His greatest enemies to become **“A Transformed Witness for God’s Community.”** I choose to uncover the resume of the man Saul, arch enemy of Jesus Christ, who loved him and had a plan to reach and teach him to become **“A Transformed Witness for God’s Community.”**

ANTICIPATED POWER POINTS:

- Who is this Transformed Witness? Acts 9:1-2
- What Happened to the Transformed Witness? Acts 9:3-9
- Where was the Transformed Witness Sent? Acts 9:10-11
- Why was the Transformation Witness Transformed? Acts 9: 15-19

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Who is this Transformed Witness? Acts 9:1-2

This witness was Saul of Tarsus, a.k.a. Paul the Apostle. Much of his autobiography can be read in Philippians 3:4-10. Acts 22:3-5 gives us this summary, *“I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished.”* Saul, probably a part of the Jewish ruling group called the Sanhedrin Council, was a true zealot of traditional Jewish laws. He thought it necessary to withstand any entity that rose to defy its relevance, so when the New Testament Community began to become a thorn in the side of the accepted laws of Moses, Saul thought it necessary to challenge it even unto imprisonment or death! Saul was truly an enemy of the Church, though he did it in ignorance!

II. What Happened to the Transformed Witness? Acts 9:3-9

As one reads the account in the verses here, it is evident that Saul was confronted by the powerful presence of the Lord Jesus Christ! This confrontation overshadowed all of his preconceived ideologies and set before him the truth! He was then challenged to accept or reject this truth, (which he accepted), and was told what the next step on his road of transformation was. Interestingly, his companions heard the voice, but they did not see the One who called Saul by name, and sent him on his way. When Saul arose from the ground on which the power of God had placed him, he was physically blind temporarily, but was told where to go and wait for God’s will to be fulfilled. Christ has heard the prayers of the tortured saints and transformed the terror of their enemy into a witness for Himself. (Read Acts 4:23-31)

III. Where was the Transformed Witness Sent? Acts 9:10-11

Saul, after rising from the ground, was told by Jesus to go into the city. But God was also preparing a certain disciple in the city of Damascus named Ananias, who would be used to touch and teach this newly transformed witness called Saul. God could have told Saul everything He wanted him to know, but it would have ruined the model that He had established. In Ephesians 4:11-13, we find these words, *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”* So Saul was sent to a pastoral leader of Damascus to be instructed for the Lord.

IV. Why was the Transformation Witness Transformed? Acts 9:15-19

There was a specific mission to which Jesus had chosen Saul to fulfill, and praise God, he did become that witness. God has a minister to meet every mission that needs to be fulfilled that the lost might be delivered unto His perfect salvation! Thank God, Saul responded obediently and the Lord allowed what appeared to be scales to fall from his eyes, and he was baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit and was strengthened in the faith. Saul, from that city, began to challenge others through the preaching of the Gospel, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. He became one of God’s greatest **New Testament Community Transformed Witnesses!**

CLOSING

What God saw in Saul, he also sees in every person who would receive Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. When He is received, they too will become a **Transformed Witness for Christ** today! Acts 1:8 closes the lesson with, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* And this great work is all by the Grace of God! Titus 2:11-15, *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”*

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179

Phone: (504) 486-7876

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



LOOKING AHEAD:

August 27, 2017

Acts 10:19-33

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.