

Ananias' Short Sermon to Saul

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Acts 9:17-18
 - 1. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus, chief persecutor of the early church - Acts 8:1, 3, 9:1-2
 - 2. Who became Paul the apostle - Acts 13:9; 1Cor. 15:9-10
- B. There are actually three records of his conversion in The Book of Acts
 - 1. Acts 9:1-19 - where Luke describes it as it happened
 - 2. Acts 22:6-16 - where Paul recounts his conversion before a large crowd
 - 3. Acts 26:12-18 - where Paul defends himself before King Agrippa
- C. The conversion of Saul of Tarsus is a powerful testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

I. THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

- A. Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute more Christians
 - 1. Acts 9:1-2, 22:4-5, 26:9-11
- B. A light shone around him from heaven - Acts 9:3, 22:6, 26:12-13
- C. A voice began to speak to him in Hebrew identifying himself as Jesus
 - 1. Acts 9:4-5, 22:7-9, 26:14-15
- D. Jesus then tells Saul why He has appeared to him - Acts 26:16-18
 - 1. To go on to Damascus, where he will be told what he must do - Acts 9:6
 - 2. He will be told all things appointed for him to do - Acts 22:10
- E. Saul arrived in Damascus
 - 1. Led by the hand, blinded by the light - Acts 9:8, 22:11
 - 2. For three days, he neither eats nor drinks - Acts 9:9
- F. The Lord sent Ananias to Saul - Acts 9:10-16
 - 1. Ananias went to Saul and restored his sight - Acts 9:17-18, 22:12-13
 - 2. Told him why the Lord appeared to him and how he will be a witness of what he has seen - Acts 22:14-15
 - 3. Is told to be baptized and wash away his sins - Acts 22:16, 9:18
- G. Saul began his work - Acts 9:20, 26:19-20

II. WHEN AND HOW SAUL WAS SAVED

- A. Saul was not saved until after he arrived in Damascus
 - 1. Note that while on the road, the Lord said it would be in Damascus where he would be told what you must do - Acts 9:6, 22:16
 - 2. At that point, Saul was still in his sins
- B. Saul was not saved by the vision on the road
 - 1. Saul was not saved by his prayers and fasting - Acts 9:9, 11
 - 2. Saul was saved when his sins were washed away - Acts 22:16
 - 3. This agrees with what Peter said about purpose of baptism in Acts 2:38
- C. Ananias short sermon teaches the effectiveness of baptism; Paul learned it from him in Damascus
 - 1. We are baptized into Christ's death - Rom. 6:3-4

2. We are united with Christ in the likeness of His death - Rom. 6:5
 3. We are crucified with Christ; body of sin is done away - Rom. 6:6
 4. We die to sin; freed from sin - Rom. 6:7
- D. Baptism is conditioned on our faith and God's work - Col. 2:12
1. "Baptism has been instituted that it should lead us to the blessings of this death, and through such death to eternal life. Therefore it is necessary that we should be baptized into Jesus Christ and His death."
(Martin Luther, Commentary On Romans, Kregel Publications, p. 101)