

Introduction:

Saul's life from birth.

- a. Born in Tarsus of tribe of Benjamin.
 - i. Acts 9:11
 - ii. Acts 21:39
 - iii. Acts 22:3
- b. Student of Gamaliel
 - i. Acts 22:3
 - ii. Acts 5:34
 - iii. Gamaliel:
 - Jewish Doctor of Law.
 - In the Talmud he is surnamed Hazzaken, the Elder," to distinguish him from his grandson, who after the destruction of Jerusalem presided over the Sanhedrin at Jamnia.
 - He held a seat, and probably the presidency, in the Sanhedrim during the reigns of Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius
 - He was the author of many religious and civil reforms, and remarkable for humanity, charity, and tolerance.
 - He was the first to be distinguished by the title rabban (our master).
 - Some Jewish traditions claim he was converted to Christianity.
 - Died about 52 A.D.
 - iv. Saul, the student, had a passion for his purpose that would not be stopped.

Text:

Romans 12:2

Thesis:

The same Jesus that changed Saul the persecutor to Paul the preacher can change you today. Saul the persecutor of Christians, realized his position before God, readily received instruction, made immediate necessary corrections and held his course.

Discussion:

I) Persecutor

- a) At the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58).
- b) Acts 8:1-4
- c) Acts 9:1-2
- d) Acts 22:4-5
- e) Acts 26:9-12
- f) Have you persecuted Jesus?

II) Realization on the Road

- a) Sinner
 - 1) Acts 9:3-5
 - (i) Jesus did something to get Saul's attention.
 - (a) John 3:16 (Jesus did something to get our attention)
 - (ii) Saul recognized authority.
 - 2) Acts 22:6-8
 - (i) Jesus pointed out that Saul was sinning against Him.
 - (a) Romans 3:23 (Just like Saul we all have sinned).
 - (ii) Saul wanted to know Who this was.
 - 3) Acts 26:13-18
- b) Distance
 - 1) Saul was making a trip of about 150 miles.
 - 2) Realizing his situation and Openly willing to follow was the start but not the finish.

- 3) Saul had to be led by someone else.
- c) Helplessness (Blind)
 - 1) Acts 9:8-9
 - 2) Acts 22:11
 - 3) Have you come to the realization of how helpless you are as a sinner to reconstruct your relationship with God the Father?

III) Instruction

- a) Decisions
 - 1) Titanic's captain, Mr. Murdock, ignored repeated warning of the iceberg ahead and on April 15th 1910 the Titanic sank.
 - 2) Saul had a choice to follow the voice he heard or deny it.
- b)
- c) Saul Chose (Did he agonize over this decision and not eat for 3 days?)
 - 1) Acts 9:6-9
 - 2) Acts 26:16-18

IV) Correction means action

- a) Acts 9:17-18
 - 1) Ananias made a bold step of faith.
 - 2) Acts 9:10-16
- b) Acts 22:12-16

V) Holding Course

- a) 2 Timothy 4:7
- b) Romans 14:12

Conclusion

1. Jesus radically changed the life of Saul to Paul.
2. Jesus can radically change your life.
3. Will you call on Him in obedience?

References:

Chilton, Bruce. Rabbi Paul. Doubleday; New York, 2004

Copeland, Mark. "The Conversion of Saul". Executable Outlines.
<http://executableoutlines.com/top/saulconv.htm>

Deffingau, Bob. "The Conversion of Saul" BibleGateway. <http://bible.org/seriespage/conversion-saul-acts-91-31>

Ehrman, Bart D. Peter, Paul, and Mary Magdalene. Oxford University Press; 2006

InterVarsity Press. "Acts 9 – IVP New Testament Commentaries". BibleGateway.Com.
<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/IVP-NT/Acts/Pauls-Conversion>.

Jackson, Wayne. "Saul's Conversion". The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus .
<http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1372-the-conversion-of-saul-of-tarsus>

Padfield, David. The Early Years of Saul of Tarsus. www.padfield.com; internet, 2010.

Royse, Clarence D. edited by Hall, G. Stanley. The American Journal of Religious Psychology and Education. Louis N. Wilson, Publishing; Worcester, Mass, 1904-1905 (The Psychology of Saul's Conversion)

"Sauls Conversion". BibleMaterials/Acts 2003.
http://www.washingtonubf.org/BibleMaterials/Acts2003/Acts9_msg.html