

I. PERSONAL CONVERSATION

- A. There is no bad time to give the Gospel
  - 1. Granted – there are more EFFECTIVE times than others!
    - a. Perhaps not engaging in a 2 hour long discourse at the drive-thru?
    - b. But you can certainly give a tract!
    - c. Maybe they won't take it – that's fine, then move on
  - 2. There is no wrong address to bring the Gospel
    - a. We have the Great Commission given to this church
    - b. No less true today! ACTS 1:8 – “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.”
    - c. MARK 16:15 – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
    - d. The marching orders of this and every New Testament church!
  - 3. Heard a great message at the Youth Rally yesterday
    - a. Kevin Besaw told how he moved to a new area
    - b. Had never heard about Salvation in Jesus Christ
    - c. But a 16-year old friend sat him down and gave him the Gospel
    - d. It changed his life!
- B. Every saved person can and SHOULD be a witness to all those around them
  - 1. Rejection of the “Man-Fearing” Spirit – MATT. 10:26 - “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
  - 2. Recommend Simple Scripture (Either verbally or a tract) – ISA. 55:11 - “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”
  - 3. Relate Your Testimony (First-hand Witness) – ACTS 22:1 - “Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense which I make now unto you.”
  - 4. Request More Time (An invitation to Prayer, Bible Study, Church, Salvation) – ROM. 10:20 – “But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.”
- C. Never underestimate the POWER of your testimony!
  - 1. People cannot argue with your personal experiences
    - a. They might not agree.
    - b. They might not believe you are truthful
    - c. They might think you're crazy
    - d. But they cannot disprove the evidences of Salvation

2. Ask my mother about the change in my life (and Bro. Besaw's)
  - a. Ask my friends when I stopped drinking and doing drugs
  - b. Ask the Highway Patrolman I vomited on the night of my DWI
  - c. Ask my football coach about my foul language
3. I have the DOWN PAYMENT of my Inheritance RIGHT NOW
  - a. EPH. 1:14 – “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”
  - b. I am convicted of my sins, not my “sin”
  - c. I can read the BIBLE and God speaks to me through His Word
4. It's up to us to tell! And that is exactly what Paul is doing in Chapter 22
  - a. He tells of his CONDUCT before meeting Christ
  - b. He tells of his CONVERSION when he meets Christ
  - c. And he tells of his COMMISSION after he meets Christ

## II. PAUL'S CONDUCT

- A. He gains their attention – he gives his credentials (vs. 1-3)
  1. He was speaking to his Jewish brethren after the flesh
    - a. He was using their language and their cultural reference points
    - b. Missionaries from Alaska speaking in the tropics about snow...
    - c. He let them know that he was no different (no better) than them
  2. They listened in silence to what he had to say
  3. People respond to your ATTITUDE FIRST before your words
- B. Paul spoke of his early life (vs. 3-4)
  1. His birthplace – Tarsus, a well-known city
  2. His nationality – a Jew, just like those in the audience
  3. His education – at the feet of Gamaliel, a student of the Law
  4. His ZEAL – how certain he was of his own righteousness
- C. Paul persecuted those of “this way” – the early name of Christianity (vs. 4)
  1. He put them in prison, he persecuted them even unto DEATH
  2. He could call on the High Priest to testify! (vs. 5a)
  3. He could PROVE his mission to Damascus (vs. 5b) – ACTS 9:1-2
  4. He is DEALING in the realm of truth. Provable. Demonstrable. Factual.
- D. To give our testimony, we never glorify sin
  1. That was one of our rules of HOPE – what God is doing right now
    - a. Not all the gruesome play-by-play of how bad we were
    - b. Even Paul didn't “relive” his sin, but said only vs. 4
    - c. The direction of his life was enough, the details weren't needed
  2. We should never look back “longingly” on our sin
    - a. THAT is what the complainers in the wilderness did
    - b. NUM. 11:4-6 – “And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? (5) We remember the fish, which we did

eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: (6) But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.”

- c. A most poignant verse - LUKE 17:32 – “Remember Lot's wife.”
3. Identify – “I” thought I was right. “I” thought I could wait. “I” think...
4. They think they are “right” too! It keeps them from turning to God!|

### III. PAUL’S CONVERSION

- A. Having established his former course, Paul now turns to the CHANGE (vs. 6)
  1. He recounts (factually) the time and place
    - a. He describes the LIGHT (vs. 6b and again in 9a)
    - b. He tells about the VOICE of the Lord that he HEARD (vs. 7-9)
    - c. He testifies of his complete surrender (vs. 10)
    - d. He calls Jesus LORD – AFTER Jesus identified Himself
  2. He details the INSTRUCTIONS he was given after his salvation (vs. 10-11)
    - a. He followed them – this is important to remember
    - b. When God gives us instructions, like Baptism, we must follow!
    - c. If we are truly turned from self and from sin
  3. Paul was CONFRONTED with his sin
- B. The Lord said the conviction of the Holy Spirit that he was fighting
  1. ACTS 9:5 – “And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”
  2. Paul knew he was a sinner but was running from it
    - a. He was hiding out in RELIGION and SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS
    - b. He was trying to work his way to God’s approval
    - c. He was presenting false works that God would NEVER receive
    - d. ISA. 64:6 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”
  3. He saw his NEED, his LACK, his CONDITION, his JEOPARDY
  4. And he TURNED to God, with an eye of faith
- C. TITUS 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
  1. He trusted in Jesus as his sole means of Salvation
  2. Not his own good works – and God SAVED Him
  3. And set him on a NEW mission! (not to Damascus but to the GENTILES)

### IV. PAUL’S COMMISSION

- A. Paul goes to Damascus and meets Ananias (vs. 12-13)
  1. Now it is interesting that God had to have a special word with Ananias

2. Look at ACTS 9:10-18
3. Ananias called him BROTHER before Paul was Baptized
  - a. GAL. 3:26 – “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Paul was even then a child of God”
  - b. He was saved by FAITH, looking to Jesus the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our faith
- B. God set Paul on a mission to spread the Word of God
  1. He became a CHOSEN VESSEL of God (vs. 14)
  2. To be an eyewitness of Jesus and to know His will
  3. To be a witness to ALL men (vs. 15)
- C. He does this because the Love of God CONSTRAINED him

## **V. LOVE’S CONSTRAINTS**

- A. 2 COR. 5:14 - “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:”
- B. All have SINNED / The wages of sin is DEATH
- C. Be Saved TODAY