

## The Apostle Paul – Lesson 3: The Introduction of the New Creature

**Proverbs 11:2** When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

### Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 2 (The Sinner Becomes Saint)

1. According to Romans 3:23, are you a sinner?

*Answer:* Yes – For **all** have sinned...

2. In Romans 5:19, who are the two men the scripture is referring to?

*Answer:* 1. Adam (through which all are made sinners), 2. Christ (through which all can be righteous)

3. According to Acts 9:1, who did Saul appeal to for authority to carry out persecution?

*Answer:* The High Priest.

4. According to Acts 9:6, how do we know Saul is on the path to 'sainthood'?

*Answer:* Saul addressed Christ as 'Lord' in submission.

5. Complete the following scripture:

**1 Peter 1:16** Because it is written, Be ye **holy**; for I am **holy**.

### True / False

**True** All humanity is condemned because of the sin of Adam (ROM 5:19)

**False** A saint is simply a good person (2 COR 5:17)

**False** A sinner is only someone who does bad things (ROM 3:23 / ROM 5:12)

**False** The Pharisees and Sadducees often worked together, because they are similar (ACTS 23:8)

### Lesson 3: The Introduction of the New Creature

All of us start out as sinners (the condemnation of the flesh of Adam) and at a point in your life, God reveals Himself in the truth of Christ. At that moment (or moments) the individual has a choice – To continue as condemned, or accept the grace of God by submitting to Christ.

We observed in lesson 2 that Saul humbled himself and submitted to Christ as Lord. As believers, the next steps are examples for all new creatures to consider as we look to the future.

**In this lesson, a look at the Paul's transformation from sinner to saint.**

#### Acts 9:7-9 – Saul starts his journey

**(7)** And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

**(8)** And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus.

**(9)** And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

- In Saul's first experience, he is blind and must be led to his destination; a self-reliant man now in a position of dependency.

**Proverbs 29:23** A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

- o Saul was prideful in his religion – Humility was the only way for Saul to truly see God.

As with Saul, humanity is consumed in pride - This is an obstacle Satan uses to discourage humanity from seeking God.

## Deuteronomy 9:4, 6 – Moses warns Israel of pride

(4) Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee.

- God could have sent the children of Israel anywhere, but He chose based of the judgement against wicked nations (Israel was the instrument of judgement with God preparing their path).

(6) Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou *art* a stiffnecked people.

- The children of Israel are not receiving reward for obedience. In fact, it is in spite of their stubborn nature.

(7) Remember, *and* forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.

- Moses provides examples where the children of Israel were rebellious of God, even as they were under God's protection in the exodus from Egypt (and through the 40 years of wandering).

C.S. Lewis - If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think tell him the first step.  
The first step is to realize that one is proud . . . If you think you're not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.

Saul, as with any seeking God, must come in humility; God gave Saul an opportunity to put his pride aside.

## The first hurdle of a new believer – The testimony of the unsaved

### Acts 9:10-14 – Ananias is concerned about the Lord's direction -The reputation of Saul

(10) And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, *Ananias*. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.

(11) And the Lord *said* unto him, *Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,*

(12) *And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.*

(13) Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

(14) And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

- To glorify God, you have to get past your old self – For that person has a reputation that will put some off to avoid the dangers of the 'old creature'.
- Ananias not only knows of Saul's reputation, but that he was also given authority to act on his hate.

### Acts 9:15-16 – The Lord gives assurance – His will be done (trust and obey)

(15) But the Lord said unto him, *Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*

(16) *For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.*

- Do not worry about the risk – The Lord is with you
- The believer must not only believe in Christ, but place all faith and trust in Him
- Also, Christ reveals Saul's purpose (we all have a purpose)

## Acts 9:17-19 – The new creature is complete

**(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.

- Ananias goes forward in faith, performing a work for the Lord

**(18)** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

- Two actions resulted from Ananias' work of faith:
  1. The Lord responded with a miracle – Saul's sight is restored, just as he had seen in a vision
  2. Saul responded in obedience – Submitting himself to the believer's baptism

**(19)** And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

- Immediately, Saul was accepted into fellowship, with other believers providing food, shelter and opportunity to share in conversation of Christ
- The new believer is truly a 'babe in Christ', where the spirit is secure, but the flesh is easily deceived and can be manipulated by the world into bad habits
  - o Many believers never discuss their faith, as if God is only for them and cannot be shared.
  - o Many believers do not produce good works, resting in their assurance, but not glorifying their Lord.
  - o Many believers cannot step out of the security of solitude for fear that the old creature will be lured into returning to unfaithful habits
  - o Many believers will not go forward in humility, because they fear the humiliation of this world
- This is exactly why the example is for the new believer (in this case Saul) to be readily accepted (in spite of the past) and nurtured in the love of the Lord through fellowship.

**1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

- o Peter provides guidance that the new Christian be nourished by the 'milk of the word' (the essentials of the gospel of Christ) that they may grow (in faith)
- o This would provide confidence in Christ, to be bold with the testimony of our Lord

**2 Timothy 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- o Paul later provides insight to the path of maturity for the believer – To be seeking the knowledge of God for the purpose of glorifying your heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we see Saul transition from a prideful old creature to a humble new creature, inspiration is given to ensure our efforts to bring others to Christ are not simply an exercise in tallying numbers, but to lovingly raise Christian 'babes' through a path of maturity that will glorify our Lord.

**Next Lesson: From Crawling to Running**

### Lesson 3: The Introduction of New Creature

#### Study Questions

1. According to Acts 9:9, what was Saul's physical condition?

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2. According to Acts 9:13-14, why was Ananias afraid to go to Saul as the Lord requested?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to Acts 9:15, what reason does the Lord give Ananias for reaching out to Saul?

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4. According to Acts 9:18, how did Saul respond to receiving his sight'?

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5. Complete the following scripture:

**1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, that ye may \_\_\_\_\_ thereby.

#### True / False

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | The children of Israel received the promised land due to their righteousness. |
| T | F | Pride will lift a person up.  |
| T | F | After conversion, Saul avoided fellowship.                                    |
| T | F | Studying greatly helps a Christian grow in Christ.                            |