

Acts of the Apostles 9:10-31_ Lesson 24

Saul's Mission

1. Acts 9:10-16 – A Chosen Vessel

- a. 3x Ananias – 1 lied to Peter, 1 baptized Saul, 1 opposed Paul – Acts 5:1,9:10, 23:2
- b. Who was Ananias? A devout, law keeping, disciple of the Lord – Acts 22:12
- c. 9:15-16 - *“a chosen vessel”* – Ananias is told that Saul is already chosen an apostle
 - i. An apostle (sent one), and chosen vessel (dispenser) of grace (not of the 12)
 - ii. Paul's apostleship not *“of men, by man”* nor *“after man”* – Gal 1:1,11-12
 - iii. Acts 22:14-15 – *“to know his will”, “unto all men”, “of what thou...”*
 - iv. Jesus sent Saul to Gentiles with grace and salvation in Acts 26:16-18, 9:15
 - v. *“great things he must suffer”* ← An indication the kingdom is not coming
- d. This is the beginning of the dispensation of grace with more to come – Acts 26:16

2. Acts 9:17-18 – Ananias's Ministry to Saul

- a. *“Arise and be baptized”* – The kingdom ministry to the circumcision did not stop
 - i. Ananias baptized according to Pentecostal ministry– Acts 2:38, 9:17, 22:16
 - ii. Saul is saved on the road; Ananias calls him *“Brother”*; he is already called.
 - iii. Saul was not baptized by a preacher of the gospel of the grace of God
 - iv. The issue is not what Saul or Ananias were doing, but what God had done.
- b. Saul's conversion firsts... 1st time Holy Ghost given w/o Jerusalem apostles
 - i. The Spirit left Jerusalem (ch. 8), and now given by grace in Damascus
 - ii. The Holy Ghost is working a mystery here – w/o Israel, law, covenants

3. Acts 9:19-23 – Saul Strengthened

- a. 9:19-23 – Saul is strengthened not just physically, but spiritually here
- b. 9:20-22 - What did Saul preach? *“Son of God” “this is very Christ”*?
 - i. Don't miss forest for trees → Paul's gospel begins with Christ Ro 1, Ph 2:10
 - ii. Acts records Paul's ministry of Christ toward Israel – Rom 15:16-20
 - iii. Paul did not preach Peter's kingdom apostleship nor covenant message
- c. 9:23 - Saul spent time in Arabia during this time of strengthening - Gal 1:13-17
 - i. A good guess – the Holy Ghost led him there like Jesus, Moses, Elijah
 - ii. *“after... many days”* +3 years Jesus crucified, +3 months Moses in a basket

4. Acts 9:24-31 – Saul's Brief Visit in Jerusalem

- a. *“and when”* ... His visit to Jerusalem at least 3 years later for 2 weeks – Gal 1:18-24
- b. *“there were all afraid... but Barnabas”* – he saw none save Peter and James
 - i. Saul was the last to see Jesus by this time – 1 Cor 15:8
- c. Why go to Jerusalem? To join the disciples, visit the temple, preach - Rom 10:1
 - i. Paul continued to learn and Jesus was his teacher – Acts 22:17-21
- d. Tarsus is in Syria & Cilicia where Saul ministered to Gentiles – Gal 1:21, Acts 15:23
- e. 9:31 - *“Then had the churches rest”* – Peace as a result of Saul's salvation by grace

Why Paul Was Baptized

1. The Lord told him to obey Ananias (Acts 9:6,12)
2. Ananias was a minister of water baptism devout according to the law (Acts 22:13, 16)
3. Water baptism was how Jews expressed cleansing from past wrongs or uncleanness
4. Water baptism was how the remnant identified those converted to Jesus
5. Water baptism was how the remnant secured remission of sins
6. Saul was blameless as touching the law, why would he resist? (Phil 3:6)
7. God knew it would be a testimony to Israel of Saul's consistent sincerity and obedience to the law Acts 22:16
8. God knew it would help the twelve apostles of the kingdom accept his conversion
9. Being saved merely three days, Christ had not yet revealed every detail of the mystery
10. Christ appeared to Paul many times after (Acts 26:16), and gave specific instructions to cease baptizing after his apostleship was given the right hand of fellowship from the Jerusalem apostles and baptism became a contention in Corinth - 1 Cor 1:17, Acts 18:9

Saul was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, zealous of the law, desiring to be blameless, and had been recently and suddenly convinced of his sins, uncleanness, and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Water baptism was the natural step for anyone at that time in his condition. Paul's salvation and ministry is a pattern, but the ministry of Ananias is not. Ananias did the right thing according to what the Lord instructed him, and Saul did the right thing according to what he knew and how he had been instructed. There was no dispensation of grace, nor minister of the gospel of the grace of God before the Lord chose Paul. Today, we live under the dispensation of grace with the knowledge of the mystery of Christ from scripture, and with preachers who should know better than to repeat the baptisms of the past instruction of Jewish dispensations.