



Worship Guide for **March 10, 2019**

## Sermon Notes

Wi-Fi password for westwoodguestsecured: westwoodguest

### Saul's Conversion – And Yours

Acts 9: 1-19 (pew Bible pg. 917)

Church historian Bruce Shelley writes, “No man – other than Jesus, of course – has shaped Christianity more than Saul (or, as Christians came to say, Paul....). No one did more for the faith, but no one seemed less likely.” Saul was, by his own admission, a bloody terrorist who lived and breathed to wreak havoc on the church. He was a religious zealot whose life's purpose was to hunt down, capture, and destroy those of “The Way’ – the ever-growing movement of Christ's followers.

Then suddenly and unexpectedly, the hunter became the hunted. The one who sought to crush Christianity was confronted by the risen Christ. The persecutor of Christ was converted and called to be a preacher of the very gospel he sought to silence. The world would never be the same. This event is a turning point in the book of Acts, and many say a turning point in human history. “It is actually one of the most important events – aside from Jesus's resurrection – in the history of the world.” (Platt)

Today we see the first of three accounts of Saul's (Paul's) conversion in Acts, and we'll examine it in light of other New Testament passages where Paul shares elements of his personal testimony. We will see what happened on the road to Damascus, as well as what happened in Saul's heart. Few of us have, or ever will, encounter Christ in the same dramatic way as did Saul. Yet what happened *to* him, and *in* him, has taken place in the life of every genuine believer. Saul's conversion is, in his own words, an example for every person who trusts Christ as their Lord and Savior: “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience *as an example* to those who were to believe in him for eternal life” (I Tim 1: 15-16).

Christ's confrontation with Saul is:

Unlikely: Saul is probably the last person you'd choose for “your one”.

Unexpected: God's grace often interrupts our lives in unexpected places and in unexpected way.

Unhindered: seeing the unhindered glory of Christ both crushes and saves.

Unquestioned: Christ's call on us is personal, powerful, and in the end, cannot be questioned.

Christ's commission of Saul is:

Crushing: Saul's time in darkness is a time of questioning, undoing, and emptying.

Revealing: God reveals to Ananias how and where he intends to use Saul.

Comforting: the first word Saul hears is “brother”, and a new world is opened up to him.

Enlightening: for the first time Saul sees in the light of new power, new purpose, and new identity.

The applications: From Saul's conversion we see that...

No one is beyond the reach of God's amazing grace.

Salvation is always and only by God's grace.

Salvation opens our eyes to the glory of God seen only in Christ.

Salvation is full surrender to Christ.

Salvation always means a new identity, and a new purpose, and a new family.



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## Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

### Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

### Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

**Know > Be**

### Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

**Be**

### Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

Have you identified your "one" yet? If you haven't, take this time to share a few names who could be your "one." If so, share who that is with your group and take time to pray for that person as each one shares. What is your biggest fear as you prepare to intentionally share the gospel with this person?

Is there any person in your sphere of influence who you might consider the last person to choose as your "one?" How does this passage this week speak to that perspective?

What elements of your own conversion story do you recall as you consider Saul's story in this passage?

**Be > Do**

### Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

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#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students & Discipleship  
**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry Coordinator

#### Contact Us

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 www.westwoodfamily.org

#### Upcoming Events

March 10,24,31 - Directory Pictures  
 March 15 - ODWG Applications Due  
 March 20 - Church Conference  
 April 4 - ODWG Training  
           BBA Spring Meeting  
 April 6 - One Day with God  
 April 12 & 13 - Mom 2 Mom Spring Sale

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