

Acts 9:19-31 \ The Start of Something Big

2-25-24 @ RCBC

Saul's testimony reminds us that the response of those who've been transformed by the Savior is *submission* to the Savior.

- Have you been saved? Transformed?
- Are you now submitting to the One who changed you?

"Just minutes before his conversion, all that Saul could think of was what he could do to Christ, but immediately after, all he could think of is what he could do for Christ." - R.C. Sproul

The very message he was dedicated to stopping at all costs he was now proclaiming - that Jesus *"is the Son of God."*

- o "Confounded" here means "to throw into disorder", or "to stir into an uproar".

The truth about Jesus demands a _____.

- o You can't just sit and listen and go about business as usual.

Timeline - Galatians 1:13-18

"No one persecutes a man who is ineffective and who obviously does not matter. To suffer persecution is to be paid the greatest of compliments because it is the certain proof that men think we really matter." - William Barclay

Saul was still a very dangerous man, but now to a totally different group of people. And his suffering started in the first place where he ever preached the Gospel.

Barnabas took responsibility for Saul and vouched for him. Barnabas = *"son of encouragement"*.

- Who might the Lord be sending you to encourage and take under your wing?

"God had marked this brilliant Pharisee for ministry among the Gentiles, but the church was not yet ready for him. While God prepared Saul of Tarsus to become Paul the apostle, He also prepared the Jewish church in Jerusalem to welcome Gentiles as brothers and sisters." - Chuck Swindoll

The Church was facing lots of difficulties, but at the same time had peace and it multiplied – *HOW?*

- *"walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit"*

If we desire peace and being built up, the way is through the fear of the Lord and walking in the Spirit.

The way of peace & being built up is not looking within yourself, it's looking _____ yourself to Jesus Christ.

- *It's looking to the cross and the empty tomb.*
- *It's looking to the One who transforms you and gives you a new purpose.*

Why was the Lord building up the Church and giving her peace? *Because the Church had a job to do.*

- ***God didn't just save us from something, He saves us for something.***

If God has saved you by His grace, make it a priority to _____ in what He's doing.

- Have you surrendered and given your life to Christ?
- Will you make participating in the work of the kingdom a priority in your life?

What God has done through Christ in your life is the start of something big.