

WHO ARE YOU, LORD?

Acts 9:1-22

Let's see what Saul learned as he got a glimpse of God.

I. THE ONE YOU HATE (1-5)

A. AS THE FOUNDER OF A CULT (1-2)

1. The Lord's Position: One with disciples who followed His ways
2. Saul's Passion: Threatening and eliminating or imprisoning such devotees

B. AS A REVELATOR WHO DEMANDS ATTENTION (3-4a)

1. A light flashing (3)
2. A voice saying (4a)

C. AS THE CONVICTOR OF GUILTY CONSCIENCES (4b)

1. Asking why Saul was persecuting the Lord
2. Wondering if it was not hard to Saul to kick against the goads (see Acts 26:14)

D. AS AN ENIGMA FOR AN UNBELIEVER (5a)

1. The Lord introducing Himself as Jesus indicates to Saul that He has resurrected and is in heaven
2. The One Saul said was dead and not divine is now calling Saul to face reality!

E. AS THE TARGET FOR SAUL'S PERSONAL PERSECUTION (5b)

1. Saul dismissed, resisted and finally attacked Jesus
2. Christ directly confronts Saul with a stunning accusation about his sin

F. APPLICATION

1. Do you hate the Lord and wish He'd leave you alone?
2. Do you hate Him because His teachings are contrary to your traditions?
3. Do you hate Him so much that you're willing to resist and rebel against Him?
4. Are you suppressing the truth about Christ? - Rom. 1:18-20

II. THE ONE WHO TRANSFORMS (6-12)

A. NOTE SAUL'S SUBMISSION (6-8)

1. Receiving instructions without the details (6)
2. Compliance amid confusion (7-8)

B. OBSERVE SAUL'S DEVOTION (9-12)

1. Waiting (9a)
2. Fasting (9b)
3. Praying (11b)
4. Trusting (12)

C. APPLICATION

- Has the Lord changed you? (See II Cor. 5:17)

III. THE ONE WHO COMMISSIONS (15-22)**A. A PROCLAIMER (15)**

- See Acts 26:18

B. A SUFFERER (16)

- See I Cor. 4:9-13 and II Cor. 11:23-27

C. A FOLLOWER (17-18)

- A brother believer (17a), a spirit-filled believer (17b) and a baptized believer (18)

D. A WITNESS (19-20)

- Telling those in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God

E. A WONDER (21)

- Saul's listeners expected to hear about killing Christians but instead they hear of the Christian-killer coming to Christ!

F. AN APOLOGIST (22)

- Confounding Jews by bringing together the facts ("proving") the Jesus is the Christ.

G. APPLICATION

1. Are you faithfully following and effectively telling others the truths about Christ?
2. See I Thess. 1:8

CONCLUSION:

What does Saul say about the Lord? - I Tim. 1:12-17

1. I was a God-hater (13)
2. Jesus is a gracious Savior (14)
3. I am a grateful servant (15-17)

What do you say about the Lord?

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