

Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

LESSON NO. 2 - Read Acts 9 + Romans 8

Salvation is the sovereign, unilateral work of the Holy Spirit where He brings life to [regenerates] the dead hardened heart which is totally opposed to Jesus Christ. This “new birth” experience produces a broken-hearted repentance for our sin and guilt. This leads the new born one, who is now able to see Jesus Christ with truth-filled eyes and, immediately is given the desire to confess Jesus as Lord and Savior and commits to love and follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Salvation from God’s side.

Acts 9:3-6 - As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord? Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

Salvation from Man’s side.

[v] 5-6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do? Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

What follows this “new birth”, “new spiritual sight”, experience?

[v] 10-43 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”

Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.” And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and **he arose and was baptized.**

So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

Saul Preaches Christ

Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?”

But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

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Saul at Jerusalem

And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

What did Saul gain as treasure by this “new birth”? Rejoice in the fact that the treasure which Saul gained is likewise credited to every person who sees Jesus clearly in the Bible. Each believer is then immediately sent out to tell again and again the Greatest Love Story Ever Told, how our Creator became our Redeemer, Reconciler and Restorer by dying for us in our place.

Every child of God receives, partially on earth and fully in heaven, the greatest treasure any person could ever possess: We are made sons and daughters of Almighty God, a brother or sister of Jesus Christ and made a joint-heir with Jesus over all the universe when Jesus creates again the entire cosmos.

Revelation 21:1-7 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Our joint heirship is best explained in Romans 8.

Romans 8:1, 12-17 There **is therefore now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus. [verses] 12-17 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

To revel in all that is yours having been placed **in Christ** and in having the Holy Spirit born into your life, please read all of Chapter 8 and continue reading over and over until your heart bursts with joy given from heaven!

Please write down any questions and forward to me. We will attempt to answers as we are given clarity, time and opportunity. All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis