

- iii. Called to what?
  - a) *...to the obedience that comes from faith.*
  - b) *...called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

C. V23 Paul is sent to Jerusalem.

D. V31 Now the church in all of historic boundaries of Israel is increasing in number.

### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- Why is it important to realize that Jesus is the main character of our text? What evidence of this do you see in the text?
- What did the term “the Way” refer to? What is the significance of this to us as believers?
- Why do you think Saul would be so vehemently angry with followers of “the Way”? Is this response something we might encounter? Explain.
- What might we learn from Saul's unique conversion about our own salvation? What might we learn from his calling about our own calling? Compare Saul's conversion experience to every conversion in Ephesians 2:10.
- How does Romans 1:1-5 help us understand what it means that Saul proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God?
- Imagine you were a believer in Damascus and had heard Saul was on his way there to arrest believers. Then, hearing of his conversion, how would that have effected your view of Christ?
- Jesus had a claim on Saul's life. What claim has he made on yours? What claim has this message and text made on your life? How is Christ calling you to respond?
- How has it effected your confidence in the Gospel's advance?

## Christ's Conquest in Damascus

Jerry Cisar — August 17, 2014

Text: Acts 9:1-31

### Introduction

A. How big is the promise?

B. Saul's Intent and Christ's Conquest

C. Damascus

i. Capitol of Syria

ii. Damascus/Syria figures big in the prophets. (Zech 9:8)

### I. Saul's Conflict with Christ (9:1-2)

A. What was Paul's intended mission to Damascus?

B. Paul's hatred of “the Way.”

i. A self-designation (24:14).

ii.

iii. In general it is a claim to know the true way of God.

a) Acts 18:26

b) Genesis 18:19

iv. In particular it means they are the fulfillment of the promised restoration of the people of God.

a) Isaiah 35:8-10

b) Exodus 23:20

c) Romans 2:28-29

## II. Christ's Sovereign Conquest of Saul (9:3-9)

A. A Light from Heaven

i. This is the God of whom Saul had learned.

ii. *"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,"*

iii. v6 Christ sovereignly conquers Saul.

iv. V8 Now Saul is the prisoner.

B. The Anatomy of Saul's Conversion

i. Was Saul a seeker?

ii. Christ changed Saul's vision completely.

➤ 2 Corinthians 4:6

iii. Saul's 3 day-waiting period may illustrate what happens in baptism.

## III. Christ's Sovereign Mission for Saul (9:10-19a)

A. Ananias has a vision of his own.

B. Paul's Unique Calling to the Gentiles (9:15-16)

i. *This man is my chosen instrument... "vessel, weapon"*

a) Isaiah 54:16-17

b) Isaiah 49:6

ii. *"to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel."*

C. Chosen for a Purpose (Ephesians 2:1-10)

## IV. Saul's Proclamation of Jesus (9:19b-31)

A. Saul's unique encounter enabled Him to proclaim Jesus.

B. He preached that **Jesus is the Son of God**.

i. Romans 1:1-5

ii. Psalm 2:6-8