

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

NT Survey Lesson 59--Acts 9

Introduction: Perhaps no event had more effect on the development of the early church than the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. His conversion is a powerful evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. In the latter half of the chapter we continue to see the profound miracles of Christ performed by the hands of Peter in Jesus' name.

The conversion and early spiritual life of Saul of Tarsus--Ac. 9:1-31

1. Where have we earlier read of Saul? Is the early part of this chapter consist with what we read of him earlier?
2. What provisions did Saul make before his trip to Damascus? What was his purpose for going? Upon what basis could a religious man like Saul do these things?
3. Did Jesus actually appear to Saul or was this a psychological struggle in his mind? How do we know?
4. Why did the Lord appear to Saul? Was it essential for his salvation? Another reason? (Prove this)
5. Was Saul saved on the road to Damascus? When and how was he saved? (Helpful material may be found in chpt. 22 & 26 also)
6. How would you answer the following denominational argument: Ananias called Saul "brother" before he was baptized. Therefore, Saul was saved without and before water baptism!?
7. How did Ananias confirm to Saul that he was a true spokesman for God?
8. What can we learn about baptism from the texts dealing with Saul's conversion?
9. How does the conversion of Saul prove that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead? What testimony did Saul give about Christ?

10. Relate the death plot on Saul's life. Why did the Jews want to kill Saul?
11. Is it Scriptural to speak of one "joining" the Lord's church? A local church?
12. Describe the state of the church as a whole as given by Luke in v. 31.

The ministry of Peter outside Jerusalem--Ac. 9:32-43

1. Trace the travels of Peter as recorded thus far in the book of Acts from Acts 2 onward.
2. What are some features of the miracle performed by Peter on Aeneas? Is this in any way comparable to the "cures" of modern faith healers?
3. What was the effect of this miracle?
4. What features of Dorcas are worthy for the Christian to imitate today?
5. What was the effect of this miracle?
6. Should those who claim today to have the powers that the apostles had be able to do what the apostles did? Can they?
7. Were NT miracles performed in a general way merely to relieve suffering or were they performed on special occasions to confirm the word? (Prove your answer)
8. These miracles worked to produce faith in whom? Should they do the same for man today?