

## **The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-19)**

Conversion of Saul is among greatest events in history of the church

Of the 27 books of the NT Paul the apostle penned 14: just over 51% (Heb)

### **I. Saul of Tarsus Persecutor of the Church**

First introduction to Saul at the stoning death of Stephen (7:58)

Saul approved of Stephen's death, was ravaging Christians (8:1,3)

Breathing out threats, letter from high priest to arrest more Christians (9:2)

### **II. Arrested by Christ**

Saul overwhelmed, fell to the ground (9:3,4) why do you persecute me? (5)

When he asked "Lord, who are you?" I am Jesus whom you are persecuting

Paul's reflection "It pleased God to reveal His Son in Me (Galatians 1:16)

Saul was shaken, believed Jesus of Nazareth was alive, not dead & buried

Voice accused Him of persecuting Jesus, he was persecuting Christians

### **III. Conquered Instantly by Grace**

Saul was passive in the encounter: Christ had set him apart (Galatians 1:16)

Saul: rendered helpless –blinded, needed to help to Damascus (9:6)

### **IV. Soundly Converted**

Saul of Tarsus persecutor of the church: baptized in the name of Jesus (9:18)

Saul was visited by Ananias & received as a brother cautiously (9:11,18)

### **V. Prayer**

- This is the first time Saul is said to be praying (9:11) true faith = prayer