

The Book of Acts Study Notes

CHAPTER 9 Part 2 – Verses 9-

Three Days Without Sight (vs. 9)

- ❖ Saul's blindness is not permanent but temporary and necessary step
 - When you can't see or don't have direction, you've got to seek Him – Prov. 3:5-6, Acts 8:11
 - He is blind and has no appetite but waiting for direction – Acts 9:6
 - Saul has to die to himself, his senses, his ideology, his version of right and wrong
 - Time of self-evaluation and contemplation

A Certain Disciple Named Ananias (vs. 10)

- ❖ Ananias: whom Jehovah has graciously given (Smith's Bible Dictionary)
 - Gives further meaning to Paul's later declaration of himself – 1 Cor. 15: 9-10; 1 Tim 1:14 (NIV)
- ❖ Not the same Ananias who was married to Sapphira in Chapter 5 or the high priest that opposed Paul in Acts 23:1-3
- ❖ Ananias is a devout man according to the law, and respected of all the Jews there – Acts 22:12
 - He is respected by all yet he has relationship with the Lord
- ❖ It is believed that this Ananias eventually became the Bishop of Damascus and died by martyrdom
- ❖ Note that when the Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, he answered right away...

The Necessary but Difficult Assignments

- ❖ Every assignment God gives us is not going to be comfortable or even desirable –
 - Ask Moses – Exo. 3; Gideon – Judges 6-8
- ❖ What is important in a difficult assignment?
 - Knowing you are hearing from God
 - Submitting to God's Will
 - Denying your flesh
 - Vs. 11: Get up and go into Straight street – simple but challenging assignment
- ❖ Vs 12: God has prepared Saul for your assignment and hands – would use to touch the world...
- ❖ Vs. 13-16: Ananias expresses to God that Ananias is perplexed and seems to give legitimate excuses
 - God's response does not condemn Ananias but enlightens him to walk in obedience
 - Was binding those that called on my name (vs. 14) but now would suffer for my name (vs. 16)
- ❖ Vs. 15: Saul was chosen by God – Acts 13:2; Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:10
- ❖ Ananias told by God to "go his way". Its obvious that Ananias way was really "His Way"

Touching Saul (verses 17-18)

- ❖ The laying on of hands was and is valid for the transfer of power, authority, deliverance and setting apart for purpose – Acts 8:17; Num. 27:15-23;
- ❖ Brother Saul – A true sign of obedience to God is receiving those God receives – 1 John 3:14; Acts 10:15
- ❖ As Ananias lays hands, he provides clarity and enlightens Saul (vs. 17)
 - ➔ You and I need to know why we are touching lives
- ❖ Something like scales fall off, he receives sight and is baptized – vs. 18

Preaching to the Doubters (vs. 19-31)

- ❖ Our new life in Christ does not guarantee we will be initially received by others we have done wrong in the past – vs. 21
- ❖ Your motives will be challenged by those who remember your past
- ❖ Saul kept preaching that Christ Jesus is the Son of God
Romans 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:23