Paul’s Conversion & Early Christianity

Before the Trips Began

1. **The Setting and Background**: Acts 2:1 …The Day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had fully come…4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as the Spirit gave them utterance... everyone heard them speak in his own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled… "…all these who speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_… we hear, each in our own language in which we were born. 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome… Cretans and Arabs…
2. **Jerusalem**
3. Acts 7:51-60…54 When they heard these things they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and… he…said, "Look! I see the Heavens opened and the Son of Man \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the right hand of God!"… they cast him out of the city and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as …he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
4. Stephen’s preaching was bold and easy to understand, but it was not to the liking of the Jews in power.
5. The brutally murdered him for it.
6. Remember: they feared to murder Jesus; to Pilate. Stephen they drug out of town & beat to death.
7. To keep clothes from being soiled with Stephen’s blood (and limit incriminating evidence?), Saul watched over the murderers’ outer garments, enabling their vicious work to proceed unfettered.
8. Acts 8:1-3 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, except the apostles… 3 As for Saul, he made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church, entering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.
9. Saul bursts onto the scene as a horrible villain who, even in his youth, would facilitate the brutal murder of Stephen simply because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with what Stephen had to say.
10. Saul did not repent at what he witnessed with Stephen, but doubled down on his hatred for Jesus and His followers, becoming all the more active in hunting down and capturing the Lord’s faithful so that they could be tried and made to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cruelly mocked and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or even brutally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. **Damascus**
12. Acts 9:1-9, The Road to Damascus where Saul was Converted (Also see Acts 22:6-16; 26:12-18) 9 Then Saul, still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus… \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from Heaven…"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" …"I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?“
13. Acts 9:10-19 … Ananias…"Arise and go to the street called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus,… 13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about this man, how much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem… 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go… 16 For I will show him how many things he must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for My Name's sake."
14. Acts 9:20-25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he preached the Christ in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that He is the Son of God. 21 Then \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who heard were amazed… 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ. 23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him.
15. **Jerusalem**

Acts 9:26-31 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the disciples; but they were all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of him… 28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to \_\_\_\_ him.

1. **Tarsus -** Acts 10-11:18
2. Cornelius and his household were converted by Peter’s preaching.
3. Peter brought witnesses to Cornelius’ invitation, done at the direction of the Holy Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit gave further evidence of opening the door to Gentiles when poured upon converted Gentiles.
5. Peter defended his actions before the Jerusalem brethren.
6. **Antioch**
7. Acts 11:19-26 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, preaching the Word to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus… 22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch...25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Antioch.
8. Acts 11:27-30 …Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ throughout all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ... 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea… and sent it to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.
9. **Jerusalem**
10. Acts 12
11. Herod kills James the brother of John with the sword and imprisons Peter with intent to do the same.
12. Peter is released from prison by miraculous intervention.
13. Herod is eaten by worms.
14. Acts 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.
15. **Other Passages to Compare**
16. Galatians 1:1-10 Paul, an apostle (not from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nor through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father… if I still pleased men, I would not be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
17. Galatians 1:11-17, (Acts 9:1-25) …the Gospel which was preached by me is not according to man…but it came through the revelation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God… to reveal His Son in me… I did not immediately confer with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_&\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and returned again to Damascus.
18. Galatians 1:18-24, Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-31) 18 Then after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, & remained with him fifteen days… 21 Afterward I went into the regions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. I Corinthians
20. 1 Cor 9:1 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ our Lord?…
21. 1 Cor 15:8 Then last of all He was seen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the church of God.
22. Philippians 3:2-11 Beware of… the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and have no confidence in the flesh… If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so… concerning the righteousness which is in the law, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for Whom I have suffered the loss of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ… if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
23. **Paul, Corruptor of Christianity?**
24. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God… For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus…
25. **All Can Be FORGIVEN!**
26. 1 Timothy 1:12 And I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in unbelief... This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_... Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God Who \_\_\_\_\_\_ is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

Hear The Gospel (John 5:24; Romans 10:17) Believe the Word of God (John 3:16-18; John 8:24)

Repent Of Your Sins (Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38) Confess Jesus as Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10)

Be Baptized (Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27) Remain Faithful for Life (John 8:31; Rev. 2:10)

**FOR THE ERRING CHILD OF GOD:**

Repent (Acts 8:22), Confess (I John 1:9), Pray (Acts 8:22)

Greg Madden PO Box 1914 Soldotna, AK 99669-1914 Funny River Rd church of Christ www.frr-churchofchrist-ak.org