

SAVED LIKE SAUL

by Ferrell Jenkins

Where Was Saul Saved? and What Did He Have To Do To Be Saved?

Here in chronological order is a list of the events connected with the conversion of Saul, who was later called Paul. You should read the inspired historical account of Saul's conversion in Acts 9:1-19 and Paul's own account in Acts 22:3-16 and Acts 26:9-23. Study these carefully, along with each Bible reference given.

I. What Happened on the Road to Damascus?

- A. Saul and other men were on their way from Jerusalem to Damascus to bind Christians and put them in prison.
- B. About noon: (22: 6).
 - 1. A bright light out of heaven shone upon Saul. (9:3).
 - 2. Saul fell to the earth and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (9:4).
 - 3. Saul answered: "Who art thou, Lord?"
 - 4. The voice answered: "I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest."
 - 5. Saul said: "What shall I do, Lord?" (22:10).
 - 6. Jesus said: "Rise . . . enter into Damascus and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do" (22:10). "Rise, and enter into the city and it shall be told thee what thou must do." (9:6).

NOTICE: In these two accounts we learn that Saul was to be told in Damascus what he must do, He was not a saved man at this point.

- 7. Saul was now blind and was led by his friends into Damascus. (9:8).

II. What Happened in Damascus?

- A. Saul went to the house of a man named Judas, who lived on Straight Street. (9:11).
- B. For three days Saul was without sight. Neither did he eat or drink. (9:9).
 - 1. He was praying (9:11). Please keep in mind that this was not the thing that saved Saul. He was still a lost man.
- C. Ananias, a gospel preacher, was told by the Lord to go unto Saul, and after a little hesitation did as the Lord Commanded.
 - 1. Ananias said to Saul: "The Lord, even Jesus, who appeared unto thee in the way which thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit" (9:17).
 - 2. Saul received his sight, but still was not told what he must do (9:18).
 - 3. Ananias explained why the Lord appeared to Saul: "And he said, The God of our fathers hath appointed thee to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice

from his mouth. For thou shalt be a witness for him unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard" (22: 14, 15). Read also 26:16.

- a. It was necessary for the Lord to appear to Saul in order that he might be an apostle for the Lord. Acts 1:21, 22 states that an apostle must be a witness of the resurrection of Christ. Saul now was a witness for he saw the Lord after the resurrection. He says: "And last of all, as to the child untimely born, he appeared to me also. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." (1 Cor. 15:8, 9).

NOTICE: The reason Christ appeared unto Saul was to qualify him to be an apostle, and not to save him.

4. The Lord had told Saul that what he would be told in Damascus was what he must do. Ananias now says: "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (22:16).

- a. Saul was not saved before this, for he was told to be baptized to "wash away thy sins." He still had his sins.

5. Saul was baptized. "And he arose and was baptized" (9:18).

- a. This baptism was immersion (a burial). Paul says: "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." (Rom. 6:3, 4.) Notice that Paul says that "we" were buried by baptism.

- b. This was the thing that Saul "must do."

6. After his baptism, Saul took food and was strengthened (9:19).

III. Saul Was Not Saved on the Road to Damascus.

Notice the consequences of saying that he was. If Saul was saved on the road to Damascus:

- A. He didn't know it, for he said to the Lord: "What shall I do, Lord?" (22:10).
- B. The Lord didn't know it, for He told Saul to "rise and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (9:6).
- C. Neither Luke nor the Holy Spirit knew it. for they record the facts. They say that Saul was told to be baptized to wash away his sins (22:16).
- D. The Lord misled Saul, for He told him: there (in Damascus) it shall be told thee (22:10).
- E. He was saved without doing what "must" be done (9:6; 22:16).
- F. He was terribly miserable for a saved man. He was blind and did not eat drink for three days (9:9).
- G. Ananias did not know it, for he went to him and told him what he must do (22:16).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Saul was saved after he believed in Jesus, repented of his sins and was baptized for the remission of sins. Saul (Paul) later taught, by inspiration, that baptism would put a man "into Christ" (Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27).
 1. Baptism also puts a man into the one body (1 Cor. 12:13). The body is the church (Eph. 1:22, 23).
 2. When one obeys the word of God, the Lord adds him to the body, the church (Acts

2:47).

B. Are you a Christian? If you haven't done what Saul did then you are not. Will you obey this simple New Testament teaching and then work and worship in the undenominational church of Christ? By doing this you can be saved like Saul.