

The Story: Paul's Mission

July 26-27, 2014 / Jeff Gunn

²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" **Acts 9:20-21, NIV**

Paul had once believed the wrong thing about _____.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Philippians 3:4b-6, NIV

Paul had once believed the wrong thing about _____.

¹⁴ I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **Galatians 1:14, NIV**

Paul had once believed the wrong thing about how to _____ to _____.

³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. **Acts 22:3, NIV**

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. **Galatians 1:11-13, NIV**

Only _____ thing changed... but that changed everything!

A supernatural change in Paul's outlook on _____ led to a complete change in Paul's outlook on _____!

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. **1 Timothy 1:15-16, NIV**

Merciful and patient, Jesus saves _____ like me.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephesians 2:8-10, NIV**

Salvation is all by _____, through _____.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:17-21, NIV**

Jesus makes me _____! In making me new, he also gives me a whole new _____ and _____ in life!

MEMORY VERSE

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. **2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV**

Bottom line: A conversion in my thinking about Jesus will always result in a diversion in my life's purpose and mission.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.