

Acts 9:19b - 31

Truly Transformed and sold out for Jesus

INTRO

What do the following true events have in common?

- **Chinese alchemists**, who were trying to create something that would create immortality, instead....created gunpowder.
- **Nonnative toads were released** in Australia to control a beetle that was a pest to farmers, but became a much worse pest and didn't even rid of the beetle problem.
- In an **assassination attempt** on **Ronald Reagan**, bullets bounced off Reagan's bullet-proof car and hit **Reagan**, wounding him.

How about these real life examples that could occur -

- Posting a **Facebook** about what a waste of time social media is.
- A **police** station that gets **robbed**.
- A **fire** station that **burns** down.
- An **animal rights crusader** who carries a **leather** purse.

They are all **situational irony**: A **situation in which the outcome is very different** than what was **expected**.

God **works sovereignly** throughout scripture in **similar ways of irony**.

Joseph is a classic example. His brother's selling of him into slavery made possible the eventual salvation of their whole clan. Joseph imprisoned would be the one who would change the economy of Egypt, and thereby make possible, even necessary the eventual enslavement of his people by Egypt. **Irony..**

Let's jump ahead some in scriptural examples...Army's equipped for battle against God's people in the promise land turn against themselves and destroy themselves. Not the outcome you would expect. And let's finish with the supreme turn of events.

Satan's attempt to destroy God's work through Jesus was suicidal. It turned on his own head and destroyed him. Having Jesus crucified (**Colossians 2:14-15**) was his undoing.

Time and time again we see God doing this - Today's account of Saul is no different - One who persecuted the church vehemently...ravaged the church... God transforms and uses as a mighty vessel of mercy to bring **peace to the church and **promote** the church...the household of faith.**

That's what **Jesus does to those He saves**. He **transforms lives to be lived for Him**.

We'll see this transformation in the **converted sinner Saul** who was once a **persecutor of the church but now is transformed and sold out for Jesus.**

Our text this morning in A-9 **reveals this transformation** of **Saul** in three parts.

- 1.) The once persecutor now proclaims. (vs **19b-22**)
- 2.) The once persecutor now becomes the persecuted. (vs **23-25**)
- 3.) The once persecutor now brings peace to and promotes...Christ's church. (vs **26-31**)

BODY

- 1.) The once persecutor now proclaims. (**9:19b-22**) - *read*

SAUL, **fresh off the cusps** of his **encounter** with JESUS is **affirmed** and **accepted** by a **fellow believer** in Christ, he **regains his sight**, is **baptized** and **spends time** with other **disciples of Jesus** in **Damascus**. NO **record** is given as to what **was done between he** and the **other disciples during that time**. I imagine some **deep conversation and sharing** taking place would have been likely...some **instruction** even in '**The Way**' in christianity...the **very way of life he was before, persecuting**. But **nothing is specified** in these verses...what is **specified**...and **therefore what we do know for certain** is that **Saul did not hesitate in immediately proclaiming JESUS**....**Immediately proclaiming the one whom saved him**....**He himself** does **provide a few more details** of these **early days as a new believer** in his letter to the **Galatians** where he is **defending His apostleship**. Turn to the epistle of **Galatians** and keep a **finger** or **book mark** there for we will be returning there a time or two. Let's first look at (**Galatians 1:11-17**) - *read*

So, **while with** the disciples...the other **believers** in **Damascus**...he did do some **traveling** during these '**some days**' as the **second part of verse 19** states. He **traveled to Arabia which is near Damascus**...**but it wasn't to Jerusalem** to **consult** with the **apostles** about **what had happened** to him and to inquire **what to do**. He had **clear vision** and **calling** upon his life from **Jesus** and He **obeyed, immediately**. **Consulting with the known and established apostles seems logical**....**one might even say wise**...they are **experienced**...they are **proven** and **tested** to BE **apostles**....**receiving counsel from them is not a bad idea**. **Doing so however would be demeaning the authority by which he received he gospel**....**and that was from The Lord Jesus himself**...by **direct revelation**. His **call to the office of an apostle** was **extraordinary** and **divine** and to **consult with other men** would be **discreditable**. **Saul responds**

RIGHTLY by immediately proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues, saying “He is the Son of God.” Those very words astonishing all who heard them for he was widely known as one who previously rejected Jesus as The Son of God. Who vehemently persecuted those who stood for the name OF and called upon the name of Jesus...who was there in Damascus for that very purpose, but instead... NOW...this same very man,..PROCLAIMS the name of JESUS here in Damascus.

What’s going on here? This doesn’t make sense. What has happened to this man? JESUS is what has happened to this man

We see an absolute 180 of his life’s course.. He is “..no longer following the course of this world..” (Ephesians 2:2). Same with ALL whom the Lord saves. He set’s you on a new course. SAUL is set on a new course...notice however though, he is most certainly helped by drawing from how he was equipped as a man. We just read the account in Galatians. Saul was very knowledgeable in the law...an A STUDENT. Passionate in what he believed....passion that compelled action...zealous action...but wrongly directed... NOW however, his knowledge of the LAW....his make up as a man is repurposed to serve Christ and His church. “Saul confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving from scripture that Jesus was the Christ.” CONFOUNDED - that’s a great word. Confounded - meaning to put to shame, silence, astonish, perplex. SAUL confounded the gospel opposing Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. Sounds comparable to Stephen whose wisdom and Spirit could not be withstood by those disputing with him. Similarly, Saul here, filled with the same Spirit, THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST,...as Stephen was, confounds the gospel opposing Jews in Damascus by proving Jesus was the Christ. Saul is a new man, is Spirit filled and ALL his knowledge of the law, of scripture, HIS entire make up as a man is repurposed to proclaim Christ...to exalt The RISEN Lord Jesus for who He is.

Every born again christian is no different.

God has equipped each and everyone of us in a unique way. Ways in which, because it’s how God has wired us....we are passionate about it. To be passionate about something is a good thing. It drives progress, it motivates, it can be contagious. My question to pose is...What is the ultimate purpose in what you are passionate about? Is it to serve self OR is it purposed in seeking ways in which it can serve Christ and His church? And I’m not talking exclusively about being a scholar of God’s word. That certainly may be and is

a passion...INDEED all believers ought to love and delight in God's word....to study ourselves approved to God...rightly handling the word of Truth...growing in our knowledge of scripture and applying it to our lives and discipling others and being disciplined by others to that end...This is a life long pursuit ALL christians should have. But what about the skill sets and abilities that you have obtained?... YES through training, schooling and experience...but ultimately it's all from God. It is He who has equipped you. You have the interest and the ability to learn it because it's been given by God. How is it stewarded? Is it purposed to serve Christ and His Church or only self.

The vast examples of skills given in the service of the temple provide a helpful example of this. Do you know there were perfumers who served the temple? Individuals who specialized in making a specific perfume to anoint all the elements within the tent of meeting...That was their job. Musicians...those who could play instruments...were equipped by God to do so in service to him..along with singers and those who maybe couldn't sing or play instruments but knew how to direct music. Skilled masonry's, carpenters, men who worked skillfully in fashioning metal, those who do amazing work with linen...sewing garments and curtains that were of great complexity and beauty. Men who knew livestock, men who were skilled farmers, well diggers, tent makers, fishermen, soldiers....and on and on. You get the idea right? A vast array of varied skill SETS of which we should be passionate about but with the right purpose.

How has God equipped you? Are you good with numbers? Supremely sharp when it comes to budgeting and how to invest well. Ask God to see how that ability may be used, or further used, to serve Him. Maybe, entertaining others is a thriving drive in your life. Direct it prayerfully in how God would use it to bring glory to Him. Another example might be your ability to engage other individuals in our surrounding community and culture who are outside the body of Christ. Individuals who we interact with at work, school functions, recreation (BIG ONE). People are comfortable talking to you...they connect easily. Is this being purposed to have opportunity to share Christ? To evangelize? To invite them to a worship service with your church family? Or is that being withheld? The youth among the body here....you are very much invited into this question before us. How has God wired you? Where do your interests lie? Pursue them...be successful in them. It's thrilling to hear about and see your interests develop...Through time spent with you and conversations had I see future mechanics, teachers, engineers, horse trainer, pilots (**drone** and **commercial**), medical professionals, and so on...many bright budding abilities...these are good pursuits...invest in them well...be successful

while holding onto the **rock solid denominator** that it is God who has entrusted you with and planted *in you* those interests and the **ability to learn and excel** at them and **therefore**, is to be **stewarded well**. **Prepare now** all that you are able to provide well for your future family both financially and Spiritually. **Put into practice** the mentality of how you may serve Christ and His church in relation to how God has equipped you **through all stages of life**

I believe serving Christ with the **measure of ability** he has given the **members of Pillar**,..here is **very much alive and present**...and **I rejoice** in that **reality**... but I also believe **more is available**. **More** of what **God has equipped** the **body** to **serve** the **body** has **yet to be tapped into**. **Whatever it is**...whether it be **one thing** or **multiple**...ask God how He would call you to purpose it in greater service to Him.

SAUL is **transformed** and **sold out** for **Jesus**. But this **doesn't come** without a **cost** for the **one who was once a persecutor** soon becomes the **persecuted**. **Take a look with me at verses (23-25)**.

2.) The **once persecutor** now becomes the **persecuted**. (vs **23-25**)

Many days pass. Well, just how many days is this many days? **Turn back to Galatians 1** and check out verses **18 & 19** - *read* - **A brief glance ahead at verse 26** in **Acts 9** shows **him coming to Jerusalem**. **So this many days** from the **day** of his **conversion** is a **3 year period**. **3 years in Damascus**... the transformed Saul is preaching Christ, confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus...the very place he was originally taking letters to haul off christians..men and women of the Way....**Jesus's church**...hauling them off to prison or to be put to death. The Jews there in Damascus who would likely have helped him identify where christians in the region lived...these same very Jews are now humbled by Paul's teaching from the scriptures...proving that Jesus was the Christ...they, who would have been his allies, in persecuting the church, turn on him who is now of the church. **The once persecutor becomes the persecuted**. The **persecution comes as it always does..UNJUSTLY**. **Paul is not doing wrong**. **He is proclaiming hope**. **Proving that Jesus is the Christ is good news**. The **Jews were awaiting for the Messiah**. **This is good news to them**. **But they don't receive it as such**. **Instead**...they **reject the message** and plot ways to kill him. **No mention of counsel, no trial of sorts**...**just a vehement, wicked, unjust PLOT to kill him**. (**Acts 8:1**) "**A great persecution arose**." **A clear manifestation of this** here. "**We reject his message..though we can't withstand his reasoning from the scriptures**.. Nonetheless we reject his message, his Messiah and since

he won't stop talking about this Jesus...it's been many days...3 years to be precise and he keeps going on and on...it's time to find a way to kill him."

No details are given of their **plot** other than they were **watching the gate, day and night** in order to **kill him**. **Kill him right on the spot...such as was done to Stephen by stoning..perhaps..we don't know**. The **bottom line** was that **Saul's life** was in **severe danger** and that 'IT' **became known**. **Somehow this violent plot against Saul's life became miraculously known**. This wasn't a broadcasted plot....no....It was in secret..., but **nevertheless it was known**. **God's care** for his **beloved** is seen here. **We know**, from the **words of Christ (Acts 9:16 &17)** that "Saul is a chosen instrument of His to carry Christ's name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." **Saul will suffer** and will **eventually be executed**...but **only after he fulfills all the purposes...all the good work God has prepared for him to accomplish**. This was not Saul's time to die. That **appointed time has yet to come**. **These Jews plot in vain...God somehow makes known to Saul and those with him of their plot and they act rightly by planning a cleverly engineered escape plan**. **There is constant watch for Saul, DAY and NIGHT**. He essentially could not safely go out into public. He was **more or less confined** as if he were in prison. So his **disciples devise an escape plan**. They take Saul during the night time...place him in a basket large enough and sturdy enough to both hold him and to have rope fastened to it so they were able to lower him down safely to the ground, **outside the city walls** that he may **escape** and travel to **Jerusalem**. That's a story likely told a time or two. *I can almost hear it...* "You were lowered in a basket?" "Yep, that was the only way I was able to escape from the city and flee from the constant threat of being killed." "Wow! what a creative and effective plan."...Yep...and I couldn't have done it without the help of those who were with me. I owe my life to them." **And he did**, there is **no way Saul would have been able to avoid certain death had it not been** with the **HELP of those who were with him....HIS disciples...come again?... Saul had disciples? How did this happen? It's been three years...he's confounding the Jews from the scriptures of which he was VERY knowledgeable and now using that knowledge rightly**. He was one **PRIOR** to his **conversion** who was **recognized** as an **up and coming leader**. It was him who held the **letters handed** to him by the high priest. It was he who was **leading a group of men** to fulfill what the **letters gave him the authority** to do. **He was not the average JOE**. **And we see, after time with the disciples in Damascus, we see him proclaiming Christ, confounding the Jews...and NOW growing as a leader among the church**. **He had disciples**. NOW it may be **helpful to consider** what a **disciple** is. The **WORD, disciple**, is **not found in**

any of the Old Testament books, NOR any of the New Testament **letters**. It's found in **the 4 gospel accounts** and in the book of **Acts**....*that's it*.

The **word itself means follower, learner or pupil under ones teaching**. A **disciple** is NOT **synonymous** with a **believer in Christ**. It is **most certainly used in that context, but it does not mean that exclusively**. John the **Baptist** had **disciples (Matthew 9:14)**. The **Pharisees had disciples (Luke 5:35)**. The **Pharisees called themselves disciples of Moses (John 9:28)** JESUS had **disciples who no longer followed him (John 6:66)**. **We ourselves could rightly say we are disciples of Jesus...we follow him, place ourselves under His teaching**. '**Discipleship**' is the act or state of being a disciple..putting what we are learning from Jesus into practice...and **this is something we HELP one another with....Saul here in the text, NOW a follower of Jesus has other followers of Jesus learning from him. He is a scholar...VERY knowledgeable in scripture...confounding the Jews...Other believers...disciples of Jesus are placing themselves under Saul's teaching from scripture about JESUS...and therefore are his disciples..it's accurate to SAY that....and Saul is putting discipleship into practice...pouring into others...discipling others..fulfilling and developing his role as a leader. And notice the example of discipleship provided in this account.**

These men are together, there is present danger and they work together for the protection of one another. Isn't that discipleship in action? Being regularly among other believers, learning from one another, holding one another accountable, protecting one another from severe dangers like the deceitfulness of sin and from the wiles of the devil...through prayer, exhortation, rebuke, instruction. (Colossians 3:16) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..." (Ephesians 4:15 & 16). "...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, (the church) joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped (by Christ), when each part is working properly, makes the body (the church) grow so that it builds itself up in love." Isn't that the purpose of discipleship?...To grow together to be mature in Christ...to grow in love?

SAUL narrowly escapes the clutches of the wicked one here by the loving help of his disciples...those whom he was engaged with in christian discipleship. How crucial it is for every believer to always have christian discipleship as a central part of their lives. SIMPLE QUESTION...Are you in discipleship with other christians? Are you being disciplined by other believers and are you discipling others? It's a yes or no answer. Learning about Jesus

and following his ways through the help of others and being 'A' help to others to the same end. It is vital for our growth and our safety christian.

To quote Woody from Toy Story movie..."If you don't have a traveling buddy... GET ONE!" Our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in the local church body God has placed us in are OUR traveling buddies on our pilgrimage to the promise land. While we are here on earth WE are to be in christian discipleship all the way till we arrive home in our Father's Kingdom. We need discipleship ALL of our earthly days. Ponder this..."Do others feel safe to talk with you about anything they are struggling through?" Do they feel safe to share - Things that are perhaps dark...ugly to behold...Christ sees us plainly and we can safely come to him as we are..."We ought to be the same for one another without the fear of condemnation."

SAUL, once a persecutor of the church is now being persecuted and is helped by the church, the disciples HE is among, to escape the persecution and go to Jerusalem where he may continue to serve JESUS. And we'll see his actions in doing so bring peace to and promote Christ's church. Our last point.

3.) The once persecutor NOW brings peace to and promotes...Christ's church. We'll see this the in final 6 verses of this morning's text. (vs 26-31)

SAUL, who, it was said later about in (2 Corinthians 10:10),...that "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." It is this Saul...attempting to join the disciples in Jerusalem...timidly I imagine. Very much aware of his past and their intimate knowledge of it. He wasn't presumptuous which is a notable character trait. He's been confounding the Jews in Damascus for 3 years...he has disciples who are under his teaching about Jesus from the scriptures. 3 years of this...creating such a ruckus that his life was at risk for being sold out for JESUS. All of this is true but we don't see any evidence of pride. On the contrary...I believe he is acting humbly here and realistic. No record of a dream account assuring him that they have also seen a vision instructing them to accept him. No..nothing like that. Word is circulation about him for sure...but he is being careful and respectful of their realistic hesitation to simply let him in.

And now consider the apostles in this equation. They've never met him..though they know much about his wicked acts against "The Way"...have lamented over Stephen and other believers whose imprisonment or death

SAUL had a **hand in** and *therefore*, they are understandably skeptical of his **conversion**. **Not quick** to just let him in **to have fellowship** with them. **No account is given to them** that **Saul** was to **be freely welcomed** in. **Even Ananias** who *did* receive a vision **acknowledged** to the Lord his **concern**. **He obeyed**...but not without **courageous faith**. One of the apostles in **Jerusalem**, **JOHN**, wrote in (**1John 4:1**) “**Beloved**, do **not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” **Apart from Christ saving and transforming SAUL** to be **sold out for Jesus**...they had **justifiable cause to be concerned** for their lives. Could Saul be pretending to be a follower of Christ just to get into and among the apostles? I GET IT. They had **just cause** to be hesitant...*but now*...WATCH what happens.

A brother steps forward and **AFFIRMS Saul** in the **faith**. **That's beautiful**. **Barnabas**...he's got to be one of **my favorite characters** in the Bible. **His real name**, remember, is (**Acts 4:36**) **Joseph**...but he develops such a reputation among the believing community in Jerusalem as an encourager that the apostles themselves nickname him **Barnabas** which means ‘**Son of encouragement**.’ What a **rock'n** nickname. **And in stride** with his **God given gift** of **encouragement**...he **steps into the scene**..WELL known **obviously** by the **apostles**..he **steps in and advocates Saul** who has yet to be **welcomed in among them**. **And his approach** in doing so is **exemplary**. Barnabas takes **Saul** (*perhaps reluctant still*)...**Barnabas takes** him....and **brings** him before the **apostles** and, **as far as we can see**, goes right into **speaking** up on his behalf.... **Sharing all about** his **conversion** and his **boldness** in **speaking** the name of JESUS. **Barnabas** makes **clear affirmative action** to **eliminate any and all apprehension** to **welcoming Saul** with **OPEN ARMS**. **And that's just what they did**. **Compelled by Barnabas's backing** of **Saul** they receive him **openly into the fold**.

WHAT AN **IMPACT encouragement** can have. **It's powerful**. It **builds up**. It **opens doors**. It **promotes peace**.

What is your practice of **speaking** of your **fellow members of Pillar** when **opportunity** comes. **Do you shy away**, avoid it OR do you **testify accurately** of **their faithfulness** and love of **Christ and His church**? **We ought to humbly affirm** our **brother's and sister's to others** when **opportunity** comes to do so. **Have you ever received a compliment** passed on to you **that was shared** with someone else? **What a high blessing** that is. **You get to praise God** for the **compliment given by someone else to someone else** on your behalf. (**Proverbs 27:2**) “**Let another praise you**, and not your own mouth; a stranger

and not your own lips.” It’s win WIN. It exalts Christ’s work IN YOU,... affirms, strengthens and encourages you by a means that is humble. God gets the credit. We experience the JOY.

Learn from the example of Barnabas...encourage one another. Give praise to God on behalf of a fellow believer. You know the Ebi’s? - COOL...You should know that they freely offered to my family and I to stay at their home for 6 full months while Ken was called to duty. I praise God for them and their example of “having all things in common.” God’s love through His church is abundantly seen. Both the Ebi’s and the Sponhouer’s, without request, offered their home for us to stay while we were in search of one to purchase and were struggling to find a temporary living place. The Rice family joined in the extension of God’s love by making available storage space on their property. Again, all without request. God is so good and He works beautifully through His church. Many other examples exist...I know this to be TRUE. May we as a church BOTH have ready examples OF being the hands, feet and mouths of JESUS here on earth and THEREFORE ALSO share at every given opportunity testimonies of how that’s been done and being done to the praise of His name and for the peace and promotion of His bride...the representation of Him here on earth...The Church.

Now that he’s accepted in...what does Paul do? What he’s been doing from day one since his conversion. He continued speaking boldly in the name of Jesus. How this must have been thrilling and amazing to witness by the church...their once chief opponent... chief persecutor NOW is transformed and sold out for Jesus in whose name he boldly proclaims. AWESOME for the church in Jerusalem to see that take place AND equally provoking to the unbelieving Jews in Jerusalem at that time. Their once champion opposer of these followers of Christ is NOW one of them and just as zealous if not more so for this Jesus he was once determined to put an end to. It infuriated them and probably those most agitated were the Hellenist, the Greek speaking Jews whom Saul had once been. They, like the other opponents seen before, couldn’t stand in dispute with him. They were confounded like the rest and, to no surprise, they do the same thing. They seek to KILL him. Just as before, his brother’s in Christ, when they learn of this threat to his life take action to protect him. The gospel is powerful in transforming lives. SAUL is TRULY transformed and is sold out for Christ...the apostles who were once skeptical are transformed and now make decisions and implement them for Saul’s safety. They decided to send him to his home town of Tarsus. A decision ordained by God for we read in (Acts 22:17&18) “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw him (him

Jesus) saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ **As directed by the apostles and above all, in obedience to The Lord Jesus, Saul leaves Jerusalem to go to his home town.** This also corresponds to (Galatians 1:21-24) Go ahead and turn their **one last time.** - read..

Cilicia is the province in which **Tarsus** was located. And **look at that last verse** in Galatians..**verse 24** “**And they glorified God because of me.**” That **marries up well** with our **final verse** this **morning...verse 31** “**So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it (the church) multiplied.**”

SAUL presents to us this morning as one TRULY transformed by a powerful savior. This once vehement persecutor of the followers of Jesus...NOW boldly proclaims the name of Jesus and is himself persecuted for the same very name he once tried to destroy. Saul’s powerful transformation of life to be SOLD OUT for Jesus bolsters the church. It promotes peace, the fear of God and more conversions. Their primary opponent was now sold out for Christ. He who vehemently opposed the church NOW serves it with all he’s got. GOD continues to powerfully fulfill His promise that He will build His church. Both numerically and spiritually. Saul is not going around hunting down christians anymore, rather he’s going around building them up in the faith. Teaching and preaching boldly that Jesus is the Christ..the Son of God. This has a contagious affect and the church IS seen here, as a result, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit...greater devotion and reverence for God permeates the life of the church and further promotes the advancement of God’s Kingdom.

CONCLUSION - in closing

The **example of Saul confronts us with a reality check.** You may not consider yourself a **persecutor** of the church, but remember Jesus’s words “**Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.**” (Matthew 12:30, Luke 11:23). There is **no neutral ground.** Your life is either lived for Him and His church whom is united to Him by faith and whom He identifies Himself with personally OR **it’s not...**there is **no middle ground.** **Again, SAUL presents to us this morning as ONE transformed by a powerful savior. He is sold out for Jesus. Everything that Paul is, IS NOW lived for Jesus and His bride the church. He is SOLD OUT for Jesus. Are you? Is every faculty of yours, every God given ability and resource both available and purposed for HIM? It’s not a matter of IF God has equipped me it’s how has**

God **equipped me to serve Him**. **Equipping** that can either be **built upon** for **greater capacity of influence** for **God's eternal Kingdom** to **His glory** and for **our Joy**...OR **equipping** that is **squandered..waisted..unable to recover losing out on the impact we could have** in **God's hands** on **eternal matters....** **This is not a one time question either**. **Something** to be **regularly** place before **ourselves** for we can be **EASILY self-deceived**. **And it's the question I leave with you today**.

COMMUNION

Like **Barnabas standing up for Saul** to **welcome him to the apostles table** **our Lord Jesus** takes us and brings us to the **Father** that we may dine with him. The **meal.. his body that was broken for our punishment** and the **drink...his blood which was shed upon the cross on Calvary for the remission of sin**. **This meal is for the believer...the disciple of Jesus** who **joyfully** comes under the **rule** and **reign** of **Jesus in their hearts**. **If you have YET to place your trust and allegiance** to him, **then God's wrath is being stored up to pour on you on that day of reckoning**. The **day** WILL come **friend**. **Please heed the warning and repent**. **Turn from a life of sin and turn to Christ**. **In him only is forgiveness of sin** whereby we may be reconciled to the **Father**.

BENEDICTION -

Family

Table Talk



August 5, 2018

Family Discussion

1. Whose the brave one in the bunch? Brave one step forward and allow everyone else to mess your hair up, dirty your face, maybe with jam or something simple to clean off, and anything else that will present you in disarray. When they are all finished, go look in the mirror and see their handy work.
2. Now, are you going to leave it alone or clean everything up? More than likely the latter for the mirror reveals clearly that work needs to be done.
3. God's Word is the same to our hearts. It penetrates deep and exposes the ugliness of our hearts and the great need to be cleansed and made right. Something only Jesus can do. James uses this illustration to describe someone who hears God's Word but doesn't do it. Read James 1:22-24 to see this example.
4. Sounds ridiculous right, just like if you left everything the way it was when you looked in the mirror. Well so it is if one calls themselves a disciple of Jesus, but doesn't apply His Word to themselves. Listen to James talk about the result of one who is not only a hearer but also a doer of God's Word.
5. A true disciple of Jesus is both a hearer of God's Word and also a doer. Disciple of Jesus, be blessed in your doing,
6. and read a few more passages with helpful instruction in doing so.

GOD'S TRUTH

A disciple of Jesus is one truly transformed and sold out for Jesus!

Key Verse

"Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures."
James 1:18 (ESV)

TABLE READING

Lead your kids into God's Word...

3. James 1:22-24
4. James 1:25
5. James 1:19-21, 26 & 27;
Ephesians 4:17-32;
Colossians 3:5-17



Scripture Memory: Acts 10:42-43

"AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES." - DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9 (ESV)