

Saul's Damascus Road Conversion

Acts 9:3-9

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Sponsored by Crooked Creek Christian Church Inc.
1980 Crooked Creek Road, Irvine, Kentucky

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

COLOSSIANS 3:13C, 15

Forgive as the **Lord** forgave **you**. **Let** the **peace** of **Christ** **rule** in your **hearts**, **since** as **members** of **one** **body** you were **called** to peace. **And** be **thankful**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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The Truth That Saves

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
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We begin this article with a passage that is one that can be classed as a hard truth. In **Matthew 23:13-15**, these are the very words of Jesus himself, *"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."*

First, whom is the Lord describing? What is the description of a scribe in the Bible? It was their business to study and gain the complete knowledge of the **Law of Moses**. Also, they claimed that they were guardians of the Law. They also obtained a title of Rabbi as a rank. Even wore the dress of nobility.

Then, there were the Pharisees, those who claimed superiority of the common Jew. They were always antagonistic to our Lord. The Puritan religious sect of England became the 19th Century Pharisee, and in doing so, many followed their lead. The Pharisees worked their way into the Jewish political system called the Sanhedrin, much like the modern day Senate. They also built many schools of philosophical Pharisciple ideas. Then, even today, there is no distinct accounting of their organization. All its members are required to take an oath of fidelity to their society, even this did not happen until a probationary period of 30 days had passed. Jesus had denounced the party of the Pharisees more than any other, calling them hypocrites, which means **only playing the party of righteousness**.

My question is this? Does this type of religion imitate the modern day types? These Pharisees mentioned here was one worn with pride. Even today in religion, many are proud to give a first name recognition to a denominational group, **which means division**. The Pharisee did the same in Luke 18:9-14,

saying, "I thank God that I am not as other men are," then he began to extol the sins of others.

Friends, these verses in Matthew 23, keep me more deeply concerned for my own family as well as all that I may meet daily. My Lord says in **John 14:6**, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* I am so firmly a believer in this, that I would rather be shot through the heart with a 30-30 than to have my family align themselves with a denominational church. **Not that I hate any members of them**, but I thoroughly hate the teachings they hold. So, if it happened, I would know that they would fit perfectly into the plans that Lord himself describes here. Yes, they would have maybe found friendship, but, at what cost? Jesus says they would be a two-fold more child of hell. Tough statements, you bet they are. **But it is my Lord that said them!**

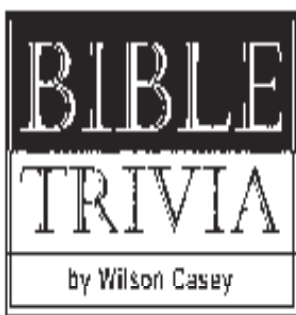
Friends, any deviation from the words of truth would result in one's greatest of mistakes. It will cause many to be rejected at the Judgment. It will cause one to be lost eternally, severed from any hope forever. Just a short reading of Matthew 7:21-23 will reveal the truth about false acceptance of a lesser truth. **Romans 1:18** says, *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"*

Sadly, at the time one may accept a partial truth that may relieve their conscience to some degree, but there will always be that nagging thought, have I obeyed the truth that will save me in the end? **2 Corinthians 13:5** clearly says *"Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* **How can this be done?** Simply by **reading your Bible completely** and then doing only what it says! Anything less is a dangerous way to live.

Someone once said to me in an ongoing Bible discussion, in which he did not care what it said, "So, you are going to pull the book on me?" Yes, in deed, because we will be judged by what is written in the book called, "The Bible." Revelation 20:10-15 says so. Now, then, what is your eternal security based upon.

Call for discussion.

Sincerely, Bob Casey, (1-859-369-4165), local



Augustus, Barabbas, Cyrenius, Dalphon

4. What priest was told he would not die until he saw the Savior? Joazar, Matthias, Simeon, Elionus

5. Who informed Joseph that the baby's name was to be "Jesus"? Herod, Pilate, Mary, An angel

6. Herod ordered the execution of all male children at what age and under? 1, 2, 3, 4

Answers on bottom of Page 9

Now available by Wilson Casey!
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1. Is the book of Immanuel in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. Which Old Testament prophet said the most about the birth of Christ? Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah

3. From Luke 2:2, who was governor of Syria at the time of Jesus' birth?

File Disability Claims Before Leaving Service

VETERANS POST
by **Freddy Groves**

If you're scheduled to leave active duty soon and know your separation date, start keeping a calendar of important dates, especially if you're going to have a disability claim.

Veterans who have between 90 and 180 days left in active-duty service can file for the Benefits Delivery at Discharge program. The Department of Veterans Affairs has made big improvements to the system, and many who make disability claims in the BDD program can receive a decision within 30 days of getting out.

In the first year, 53 percent of veterans had a claims decision within 30 days. As they've smoothed out the details, that percentage has gone up. Claims can now be reviewed at any regional office, and they've improved the software for records transfers and added claims training for those who will do the work.

Still, it's important to

get any claims filed in the 90-180 day window before you leave. That will ensure your disability medical exams go into your service treatment record, and if the condition worsens later, you'll have a starting date right there in your medical file.

There are limits, however, to using the BDD program. You can't use it if you're terminally ill, are in a VA medical facility, will need case management or if you can't get to a VA exam within the 45 days after you file. For the whole list of restrictions, go to www.va.gov/disability and put BDD in the search box. You'll also find details about the pre-discharge claim.

If you have fewer than the 90 days until separation, you can still put in a disability claim through the Decision Ready Claim or a fully developed claim. If you're injured, sick or wounded and can't do your job, they will refer you to the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

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God's Way

by **Mabel Tipton**
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Another year is upon us. Which brings another chance to find out and please God more this year than last year. As I think of failing the grace of God my whole body wants to shrink. Failing the grace of God results in one of three basic sins: Pride, moral impurity (such as fornication), and great profanity. As seen in Esau's selling of his birthright, all of sin's manifestations can be traced to one of these three fundamental sins. The cause of each of them is failing the grace of God.

The grace of God is violated when one refuses to respond to the desire it gives to do right; then choose instead to follow the impulse of the flesh. But to the man who is obedient to the grace of God there is no defeat.

Matthew 6:22-23, *"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"*

In its depraved state, the flesh yearns for the base and simple things. It communicates this craving to the soul through the senses. The soul, if it has not been transformed by the renewing of the mind, will respond to these cravings and will aid and abet the flesh. The spirit will remain dead. However, if it has once been born again, it will die again if obedience is continually given to the law of the flesh.

Following the impulse of the flesh will result in spiritual death. The reborn spirit will gradually wither and die, from lack of nourishment. The solution to this, is to mortify, or put to death, the deeds of the body. This can only be done through the Spirit. The unregenerated man is helpless to mortify the deeds of its body. He is captive to them while the regenerated man can put them to death.

Romans 6:14-17, *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."*

Please know you are welcome to come learn with me in 2019. Mabel Tipton 859-358-5137.

seeds of Hope



We rarely stop and count the many benefits that we have because of God's grace. Perhaps David clearly and carefully listed five of them beginning with what we can say is the entrance to the benefits He has in store for us: His forgiveness.

The word forgiveness here means to "deviate" or to "stray" from the expectations, laws or commandments He established from the beginning of time. When we do so, we become guilty of sin and need His forgiveness for us to have a relationship with Him and enjoy His blessings.

Forgiveness is the beginning, the foundation of our relationship with God. And it is something some of us may need more often than others. The call of God's Word

is first and foremost the call for us to ask for forgiveness and repent of our sins. When we repent and confess our sins, the Gospel promises us that He will cleanse us and forgive us. John wrote that "If we freely admit and confess our sins, He is faithful and just - true to His own nature, faithfulness and promises - and will forgive us of our sins and continuously cleanse us of all of our unrighteousness - everything that separates us from Him."

If, in our daily lives, we are not experiencing His benefits or blessings, it is because there is some sin in our life that has come between us and the Lord. And if we want His blessings to return to our lives, we must go to Him in prayer and ask for His forgiveness. Forgiveness is not a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is something we must do repeatedly as we do a daily inventory of our lives.

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