

## SAUL TO PAUL – THE CALL

### WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM ACTS CHAPTER 9

Here's some thoughts on Acts Chapter 9, centering on verses 15 and 16. We can learn a lot about ourselves from these verses!

First, though, we need to set the scene. Up to this point in Acts, Saul seems to be a known quantity. He is a Jew. He is a Pharisee, and he gave his tacit approval to the death of Stephen. The opening verses of Chapter 9 do little to change our perception of him. In fact, he is still "breathing out murderous threats...". Verses 3 through 9 detail his encounter with Jesus on the Damascus Road. Paul recognizes the Lord and immediately submits to His Lordship and His commands! Amazing!

What comes next is very interesting to me. The Lord speaks to Ananias in Damascus and reveals that he is to be the messenger to Saul of what comes next. Ananias is shocked and frankly, maybe rightly so since he knew who this Saul really was. What seems like outrageous incredulity in the face of God highlights what can happen to all of us. We like to think we know how God is working and why God is working in a particular way. Most of the time, almost all the time, we don't, we simply never will! His ways are higher than our ways. We often forget that. The Lord reveals what will become of Paul and what's revealed says a lot about us, too.

Acts 9:15

*But the Lord said unto him, "Go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 21<sup>st</sup> Century King James Version*

Like Saul, who became the Paul of the New Testament, we are:

Chosen – God wants us to be His creation, His vessel, and His messenger.

Name – We bear the same name as Paul. The name of our Savior, Jesus. The Lord calls us to bear His name to all who will hear anywhere and everywhere we go.

Acts 9:16

*For I will show him what great things he must suffer for My name's sake.” 21<sup>st</sup> Century King James Version*

Suffer – We may suffer for wearing the name of Jesus like Paul did.

Hopefully, like Paul, we will count it all joy as we eagerly await our forever reunion with our Creator.

We are chosen, by the Lord Jesus, to bear a name, and suffer, so that we may live!