



Discussion Questions for Acts 9 “Salvation by Grace”
Week of November 22nd - 28th, 2009

Warm Up How does thankfulness to the Lord impact your perspective on life? Can you give a specific example of how being grateful has impacted you recently?

Questions for Interaction

- Acts 9 records the gripping story of Saul’s encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. Read this story aloud. What do you find most compelling in this account? If you’re not already aware of *how* those in your group came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, turn and share your story with one another in **2 minutes or less!** If anyone has not yet come to that place, they can share what their spiritual journey has been like up to this point.
- Only by the grace of God does Saul begin his transition from hard-hearted tyrant to a bold proclaimer of Jesus. Only God knows the hearts of people and *when* they might commit themselves to Him. As a group, discuss some actual experiences/encounters you’ve had with those who seem *particularly* far from God. How do you usually interact with these people? What’s been the outcome of your efforts with them? How can we avoid *limiting* God in these types of encounters?
- When God gave His greatest commandment (see **Matthew 22:37-38**), what did He say He wanted more than anything? What do you sense to be the tone and heart behind Jesus’ words communicated to Saul in **Acts 9**? What is the connection here?
- Read **Philippians 3:3-11** aloud. What are Paul’s main points in this section? If anyone had reason to be proud of their *religious* accomplishments, it was Paul (see **v.4-6**). We are told in **1 Timothy 1:12-17**, however, that Paul thought of himself as the *chief of all sinners*. Do you think “*religion*” had anything to do with Saul being the chief of all sinners? Why do you think Jesus seems to reserve His greatest judgment and condemnation for religious people (i.e. **Matt. 23:31-36**)?

Wrap Up Saul asks Jesus 2 questions: “**Who are You, Lord?**” and, “**Lord, what do You want me to do?**” How would you respond to these? Do you *truly* know Jesus in the depths of your being? Do you understand what He would have you do? Pray for each other as you consider these things.