

Philippians 3:4-6

⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Acts 9:1-9

⁹ Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, ⁶ but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." ⁷ The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

Acts 9:17, 22

¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

²² But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

Last week I showed you that the way out of a religious spirit is to come to Jesus, who consequently gives the Holy Spirit.

Today, I will show you what things you must suffer for His name's sake if you are to be fully His.

Jesus will take us down a pathway called humiliation; He is working in us meekness and humility of heart.

Saul had to be knocked off his high horse so that the humility of Jesus could be formed in him.

The horse you choose for yourself will have you glorified and Jesus humiliated.

First, Saul had to lose His vision (ironically, through a vision) in order to see God's vision.

The course you will chart for yourself will have you naively persecuting Jesus.

Second, Saul, a great leader of men, had to lean on others in order to find God's strength.

The force you find in yourself will make you strong in the flesh and weak in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God will tear down your most cherished convictions; they are rendering you useless in the Kingdom of God.

Gerard's wedding story, grocery stocking liquor, Game nights in NE, Movie at PC's house

God will bring you into contact with everything you consider unclean, and make you stain your "Sunday Best."

Ezekiel 4:12-17

¹² You shall eat it as a barley cake, having baked *it* in their sight over human dung." ¹³ Then the Lord said, "Thus will the sons of Israel eat their bread unclean among the nations where I will banish them." ¹⁴ But I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I have never been defiled; for from my youth until now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor

has any unclean meat ever entered my mouth.”¹⁵ Then He said to me, “See, I will give you cow’s dung in place of human dung over which you will prepare your bread.”¹⁶ Moreover, He said to me, “Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror,¹⁷ because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their iniquity.

It’s bigger than you! You cannot shelter away from the sin and pain of the world and serve like Jesus in it.

Acts 11:7-12

⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’⁸ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’⁹ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, ‘What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.’¹⁰ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.¹¹ And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent to me from Caesarea.¹² The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man’s house.

It’s bigger than you! If you cannot get over yourself, your prejudices and preferences, you cannot be a servant of Christ.

God will shed abroad in your heart His own love for the world by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5

⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Philippians 3:7-8

⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ