

Acts 9:1-19

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then 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?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷ And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹² And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

¹³ Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

¹⁹ So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

1. Open your time of worship by listening to “God, Our Father, We Adore Thee.” This hymn is found on our monthly hymn page on our church’s website (Look under the Sermons & Resources tab).
2. Take a moment to prayerfully praise our God for who He is and how He is full of wisdom, righteousness, and goodness. Rejoice in Christ and what He has accomplished for you. Give thanks for all the spiritual blessings that are yours in Christ through the Holy Spirit.
3. Read the Scripture passages listed above. Listen to the sermon through our website.
4. Take some time to think through the following questions in light of the sermon:
 - What does Jesus’ statement about who Saul is persecuting in verse 4 say about Jesus’ relationship to the church?
 - What kind of affect does Jesus’ appearing have on Saul? What kind of response does this evoke from you?
- Verse 16 summarizes Saul’s mission for Christ in terms of suffering. Is this something unique to Saul or is there a sense in which this mission is for all of God’s people? Reflect on this.
5. Close out your time of worship by reading “Author of Faith, to Thee I Cry” by Charles Wesley.

1 Author of faith, to Thee I cry, To Thee, who would'st not have me die,
But know the truth and live: Open mine eyes to see Thy face,
Work in my heart the saving grace, The life eternal give.

2 I know the work is only Thine, The gift of faith is all divine;
But if on Thee we all, Thou wilt the benefit bestow,
And give us hearts to feel and know That Thou hast died for all.

3 Thou bid'st us knock and enter in, Come unto Thee and rest from sin,
The blessing seek and find; Thou bid'st us ask Thy grace, and have;
Thou can'st, Thou would'st, this moment save Both me and all mankind.

4 Be it according to Thy word! Now let me find my pardoning Lord,
Let what I ask be given; The bar of unbelief remove,
Open the door of faith and love, And take me into heaven.