

A New Creature in Christ

Introduction: Nobody is beyond the reach of God's _____. If Saul can be saved, _____ can be. Only God can so _____ a life that an enemy of Christ actually becomes a preacher of the gospel.

- I. The _____ of Saul's Heart (Acts 9:1-22)
- A. Saul continued on his rampage against all _____.
 - B. The plans of man can _____ overthrow the plans of God (Ps. 2).
 - C. "He had gone to Damascus to persecute the church; he ended up _____ Jesus" (Bible Knowledge Commentary).
 - D. God has His ways of _____ people in their tracks.
 - E. To persecute Christians is to persecute _____ --we are His body.
 - F. It is a _____ and harmful thing to fight against God and His plan.
 - G. Salvation includes a _____ of the will to the Lord (Mt. 18:3-4).
 - H. Many must be brought to their _____ point before God can raise them up.
 - I. God can take away a person's _____ at any time.
 - J. Pride is the biggest hindrance to people _____ Christ alone.
 - K. God used a layman, not an apostle, to first reach _____ to Saul.
 - L. "The future of Christianity and the evangelization of the world rest in the hands of _____ men and women and not primarily in those of professional Christian ministers" (Green qtd. by MacDonald).
 - M. It took much _____ to accept the man who persecuted Christians.
- II. The _____ of Saul's Ministry (Acts 9:23-31)
- A. Receiving Christ makes you an _____ of the world (1 Jn. 3:13).
 - B. The very people you were _____ to could become your worst enemies.
 - C. For a while, Saul did not have any friends—the Jews now hated him, and the Christians were _____ to receive him into their fellowship.
 - D. "Barnabas becomes the _____ of Saul" (McGee).
 - E. "How we still need people who will put their arms around some new Christian and will _____ that new Christian along" (McGee).
- III. The _____ of Peter's Ministry (Acts 9:32-43)
- A. God used Peter to bring _____ to many people.
 - B. This miraculous power was used to bring people to the Lord, not to build Peter's _____.
 - C. This power was never used for personal _____.
 - D. Peter raised a faithful woman who was _____ to many.
 - E. Tabitha was known for helping _____.
 - F. The gospel continued to _____.

Conclusion: "How amazing that the one who persecuted Christians so violently should himself be transformed into a witness of the gospel—and such a dynamic, forceful witness at that!" (Bible Knowledge Commentary).