A NEW LIFE

**20** And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 9:20 (KJV)

 Acts chapter nine gives an amazing account of Saul, whom we affectionately call the Apostle Paul. Saul is a Jew that is very dedicated to the Jewish law and tradition. He is quite radical in his beliefs insomuch that he is willing to imprison and kill to accomplish what he believes. So this account is amazing in that we see one who is so determined in one way and after a brief meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus his whole life theme is changed. He was changed from one who obviously thought that Jesus was not the Christ to one who adamantly believed that Jesus was the Christ. He now wants to make disciples for Jesus instead of doing away with the believers in Jesus.

 What would lead to such a change in one’s life? One might say that he turned over a new leaf in life. A new leaf was turned over but this was not something that was premeditated or thought out or maybe even thought about prior to his meeting with Jesus. So it was more than just turning over a new leaf. This change had to be a divine work of God for Saul’s intentions were changed; his philosophy of life was changed; his total belief system was changed in this one brief meeting. Saul received more than a new leaf, he received a new love. He found a love from God through Jesus Christ that erased a mountain of sin. Also, he found a new love for God through Christ Jesus that he never knew that he could possess. In the life of Saul we see that God’s light, Jesus Christ, illuminated a life that was being lived in darkness. The spiritual light of Christ was so bright that mortal eyes were blinded to it. Saul also received a new life. His old life was steeped in tradition and legalism but in Christ he became new through the grace of God. His life had a new direction, a new purpose, a new goal and a much greater reward.

 As we begin this New Year, let us focus more on new life. We may be a Christian that just needs renewal in our life. Let us seek the giver of new life. We may have weak faith. Let us seek he who is the author and finisher of our faith. If we are tired and weary let us call on the one who has added strength. Let us pray for a closer walk with Jesus. Pray for revival in our life, our church and our land. Pray for one another. Pray for the lost. Pray for your pastor.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram