

Sovereign Word Baptist Church

For you have exalted above all things your name and your word - Ps. 138:2

Wednesday Bible Study

Acts 9:20-31

Read all of Acts 9:20-31 once.

- Answer questions below. Bring your answers next week for us to discuss together. Do not feel bad if you are not able to find an answer to a question. Do the best you can and enjoy studying the passage. We will work together as a group to find the meaning of God's wonderful word.

1. Why is it significant that Paul referred to Jesus as the Son of God to the people in Damascus?
2. In verse 22, what characteristics do you see in Saul that remind you of Stephen? How can we follow their example today?
3. True or False – According to verse 23, the Jews were planning to host a nice dinner for Saul after he preached about Jesus to them.
4. a. Imagine you were one of the believers in Jerusalem. Knowing how Saul persecuted believers, would you have trusted that his conversion was genuine? Why or why not?

b. Do we sometimes struggle to believe that God can completely change people today? Why?
5. What role did Barnabas play in Saul's ministry? Why was someone like Barnabas so important at this stage of Saul's life? If Barnabas had never reached out to Saul, how might Saul's early ministry have been more difficult? What does this teach us about encouraging other believers?

Pastor Jeff Osberg • 330.439.2037

SovereignWordBaptistChurch@gmail.com • SovereignWordBaptistChurch.com

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6.
 - a. According to Acts 26:20, what does genuine repentance look like?
 - b. Based on Saul's actions in Acts 9:20–31, does it appear that he demonstrated the repentance described in Acts 26:20? Explain your answer.
 - c. Does it appear that Saul waited months or years before producing spiritual fruit, or do we see evidence of spiritual fruit soon after his conversion? Explain your answer.
 - d. What are some "deeds appropriate to repentance" (Acts 26:20) that we might expect to see in the life of someone who has genuinely trusted Christ? Looking at Saul's example, should we expect genuine repentance to produce evidence of a changed life **soon** after conversion? Explain your answer.
7. In your own words, summarize what happened in verse 31.
8. What do you think God wanted the early church and us to learn through Saul's conversion and early ministry?

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