

A RENEWED LIFE: The Apostle Paul From Persecutor To Persecuted

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Have you ever felt like something was a lost cause? Perhaps you thought it was hopeless?
- B. Sometimes people feel as though their lives and perhaps even their relationship with God, is hopeless.
- C. We must come to believe and understand obtaining forgiveness and experiencing a renewed life is possible.

PAUL'S UNPOPULAR PAST (Acts 7:57-8:3; 9:1-2)

- A. One of the world's greatest preachers was also known as one of the world's greatest persecutors.
- B. Saul had an unpopular past due to his persecution of Christians (Acts 22:4).
- C. Saul's past affected how others viewed Him (Acts 9:10-14).
- D. Saul was the kind of person no one expected to change. It might appear he was a lost cause.

PAUL'S UNEXPECTED FUTURE (Acts 9:3-22)

- A. God used Saul as an instrument to bear the name of Christ (Acts 9:15).
- B. God used Saul as an instrument to preach the Gospel (Acts 9:20-22).
- C. God used Saul as an instrument for believers of all generations (I Tim. 1:15-16).
- D. Just because someone has a regrettable past, doesn't mean they can't have a remarkable future.

WHAT PAUL'S RENEWED LIFE TEACHES US

- A. No one deserves what God offers (I Cor. 15:9-10; Rom. 5:8).
- B. When God sees us, He sees our potential (Eph. 3:20-21).
- C. Being religious doesn't make you right with God (Acts 22:3; Phil. 3:4-6; Gal. 1:13-15).
- D. No person is beyond hope when it comes to the saving power of the Gospel (Matt. 1:21; Acts 9:18).

CONCLUSION:

- A. If the Lord can change and save even the worst of sinners like Saul, the Lord can save and renew anyone. How comforting this thought truly is.
- B. The most unlikely and undeserving people we know can change and experience a renewed spiritual life.

C. As long as we have air to breathe, we are never a lost cause in the eyes of the Lord.