



SERMON NOTES

Acts 9

I'll Take It From Here

Pastor Carl Toti - April 22-23, 2017

Paul the Apostles former life as Saul of Tarsus

Philippians 3:4-8 (NLT) "though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! 5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6 I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. 7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ"

Saul of Tarsus Conversion

Acts 9:1-2 (KJV) "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."

Damascus, the capital of Syria, is located 175 miles northeast of Jerusalem; which is the second oldest city in the world and is still in existence (Tarsus is the oldest).

Early Believers called themselves "people of The Way". It occurs a half dozen times in Acts. Other descriptions, "saints" (or separated ones), "disciples," "brothers," and other descriptive titles. They were first called "Christians" at Antioch (Acts 11:26).

Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."

Acts 9:3-4 (KJV) "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

Matthew 25:45 (NKJV) "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'"

Acts 9:5 (KJV) "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

Acts 9:6-12 (NKJV) "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." "

We have all heard the erroneous phrase: "All roads lead to God."

All roads lead to God is simply not true.

FAMOUS ROADS IN THE BIBLE

- *The Road to Hell. Isaiah 5:14*
- *The Road to Heaven. Matthew 7:14*
- *The Road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13*
- *The Road to Jericho. Luke 10:30*
- *The Road to Damascus. Acts 9*

THE MANY ROADS PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES ON

- *Radical pluralism: Christ is one of many ways to God.*
- *Inclusivism: People who have never heard the gospel may obtain salvation if they respond to the light they have.*
- *Universalism: the erroneous belief that all humankind will eventually be saved.*
- *Restrictivism: There is no hope of salvation apart from hearing the gospel and having faith in Christ before death.*
- *The Road of addiction.*
- *The Road to recovery.*
- *The Road of financial freedom.*
- *The Road of sickness.*

All roads don't lead to God but God can be found on all roads!

The Roman road to salvation Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23 and Rom. 10:9-10

Most Important Question

Acts 9:5a (NKJV) "And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus..." "

All of life hinges on this question "Who are you...?" and the answer, "I am Jesus!"