

Lesson 7 | July 17, 2022

The Conversion of Saul (Paul)

Study Text: Acts 7:58; 8:3; 9:1–31; 22:4,19–20; 26:9–11

Central Truth: Anyone who repents and believes in Christ will be saved.

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief (KJV).

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students should be able to explain the story of Saul’s conversion from enemy to apostle of Jesus Christ.
- Students should rejoice in the power of God to save even the hardest of sinners.
- Students should trust God to work through them to reach many for Christ.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: Christians may become discouraged while attempting to share the gospel with those who have long rejected it. However, **God gives us, in the life of Saul, proof that no one is beyond His power to save. Saul totally opposed the Church, and more important, Christ himself. His conversion gives us one more reason to believe God for the impossible.**

Opening Activity—Before and After

Ask: What kinds of products are sold using “before and after” pictures? Give students a few minutes to respond. Answers may include weight-loss products, home improvement products or services, etc.

Say: Most often, companies are trying to sell you a product by helping you picture yourself or your property in an improved state. **God isn’t trying to sell you a product, but He does present dramatic “before and after” pictures in the Book of Acts. Saul’s life after he met Christ points to the dramatic difference the Lord makes in the lives of believers. Saul pointed to himself as an example of God’s power to save even the hardest of sinners. A close examination of his life more than confirms his claim.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Saul’s journey began with his strict adherence to the Jewish law. As he continued, he heard about Jesus and considered Him a threat to the proper exercise of the Jewish religion; he committed himself to

stamping out the mention of Jesus' name. Saul's journey came to a stop as he traveled to Damascus to persecute believers. Suddenly, from heaven, the direction of his life's journey would be forever changed.

[Saul went to Damascus to arrest Christians but Christ arrested him first.](#)

Part 1—Persecutor of Christians

Searching, Arresting, Imprisoning

Acts 7:58; 8:3; 9:1–2; 22:4,19–20

[Act 7:58 KJV] 58 And cast [him] out of the city, and stoned [him]: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

[Act 8:3 KJV] 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [them] to prison.

[Act 9:1-2 KJV] 1 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.

[Act 22:4, 19-20 KJV] 4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. ... 19 And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: 20 And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

Say: God could have limited His record of Saul's life before Christ to a sentence or two. Instead, He wanted to give us great detail about Saul's cruel actions and his obsession to persecute Christians. By doing so, He demonstrates that no life is beyond His ability to rescue, to redeem, and to repurpose for Him. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Many readers have divided the Book of Acts into the story of two main characters. The apostle Peter and his ministry dominate chapters 1 through 12; the apostle Paul, chapters 13 through 28. However, the first mention of Paul, here called Saul, occurs before he became a Christian. In Acts 7:58, Saul was a young man guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen—outer garments they had taken off for freedom of movement as they performed this wicked act (see Acts 22:20).

Saul immediately became the central figure in the persecution of the Church, systematically seeking out believers in each house and synagogue (Acts 8:3; 22:19). While taking a more active role in the Church than they had in Judaism, believing women also became targets for bitter persecution (Acts 9:2; 22:4). Luke wrote “men and women” repeatedly, highlighting Saul’s cruelty regardless of gender.

Acts 9:1 further describes Saul’s cruelty, as he was “breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord” (KJV). **His cruelty did not end with seeking out, arresting, and imprisoning believers. He also beat them, and sought to bring them back to Jerusalem, where they could be tried by the Sanhedrin and sentenced to death (verse 2; 26:10).**

For the first time, in Acts 9:2, the experience of knowing and following Christ is referred to as “the Way” (NLT). Jesus referred to himself in John 14:6 as “the way, the truth, and the life.” Calling Christians those of “the Way” may have originated in this saying of Christ, or perhaps in His teaching that eternal life can be entered only by those who follow the “narrow” way (Matthew 7:14).

Discuss

? Why was Paul so obsessed with capturing and persecuting believers?

? How can you respond in love—and in truth—to those who claim there is more than one way to salvation?

Opposing the Name of Jesus

Acts 26:9–11

[Act 26:9-11 KJV] 9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against [them]. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled [them] to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted [them] even unto strange cities.

Say: Saul put forth great effort to please God in his observance of Old Testament law. However, as he would discover, no human effort can bridge the gap between sinful humanity and a sinless God. Before meeting Christ, Saul would fight against the Name of the only One who brings salvation—Jesus. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

In Acts 26, Saul explained his lifelong commitment to God to King Herod Agrippa. Accused by the Jews of words and actions against the Law and temple, Paul pointed to his history of strict observance of the Law and faith in the future resurrection of the dead (verses 4–8).

The center of Saul’s controversy with his fellow Jews was the identity and authority of Jesus Christ. Saul explained that his earlier understanding of God’s requirements had led him to oppose the name of Jesus (verse 9). From the beginning of the Church, salvation had been preached in His name alone (see 4:12), bringing heated opposition from Jews who did not accept this message. Saul, among that number, imprisoned Christian believers in Jerusalem (26:10).

Resource Packet Item 1: The Name of Jesus in the Book of Acts

Distribute the work sheet and allow time for class members to look up the verses. Ask how the experience of believers and churches today regarding the name of Jesus compares to that of the Early Church. How may we return to this commitment?

Paul also testified that he cast his vote against believers. We have no clear evidence that Saul was a member of the Jewish ruling body, the Sanhedrin, so his vote may have been in a trial that was held in the synagogue prior to a trial by the Sanhedrin.

In his violence against believers, Saul attempted to make them “blaspheme” (verse 11, KJV). Cursing God’s name was punishable by death (see Leviticus 24:10–16). However, this verse may indicate that Saul was attempting to get Christians “to curse Jesus, their Messiah” (see Acts 26:11, NLT).

Saul’s obsession with those who followed Christ caused him to travel even to foreign cities in his pursuit of them. On one such journey his life would be changed forever.

Discuss

? Can a person be sincere in attempting to serve God, yet be wrong about what pleases Him? Explain.

? In what ways does faith in Christ separate those who have accepted Him from those who have not?

? How do you suppose Saul (Paul) looked back on his actions after his conversion?

Part 2—Apprehended by Christ A Persecutor Made Helpless

Acts 9:3–9

[Act 9:3-9 KJV] 3 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? 5 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. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord [said] unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought [him] into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

Say: Stories of conversion to Christ range from the simple and quiet to the loud and spectacular. As Saul continued his violent persecution of those who belonged to Christ, he would experience a life change that would result in blessing for countless millions touched by his spoken and written ministry. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

With written authorization from the high priest, Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest followers of Christ; but the Christ he opposed arrested him first. Acts 9:3 states that “a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him” (NLT). God’s sudden, surprising light in Saul’s life would have a permanent impact much like His sudden sound did on the Church on the Day of Pentecost (see 2:2). **Saul fell to the ground at the supernatural visitation (9:4; see also Daniel 8:17).**

A voice from heaven called Saul by name, and asked, “Why are you persecuting me?” (Acts 9:4, NLT). In keeping with Jewish tradition, Saul likely thought the voice was divine; still, he asked, “Who are you, lord?” (verse 5, NLT). **After all that Saul had believed and done, he heard, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting” (verse 5, NLT).**

Christ’s body is the Church. Later, Saul would write extensively about what it meant for the Church as a whole, and for each individual believer, to be identified this way (1 Corinthians 12:27). For now, Saul was discovering the truth that any action against any follower of Christ is an action against Christ himself.
[1Co 12:27 KJV] 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Resource Packet Item 2: Christ and His Body

Distribute information sheet and review the various aspects of Christ's relationship to His body, the Church. Ask how these actions of Christ should bring believers confidence and assurance in times when they are challenged or persecuted for their faith.

Jesus' appearance to Saul was not primarily a reprimand—it was a calling. He ordered Saul to continue to Damascus for further orders (Acts 9:6). His companions, not having seen Jesus, did not know what had happened to Saul (verse 7). What they did know was that this relentless persecutor of the Church was now blind, and needed to be led by the hand into the city (verses 8–9).

Discuss

? List several reasons why it was important that Saul was accompanied by others on his way to Damascus.

? How should the relationship between Christ and His body encourage you as you face opposition for being a Christian?

Helped by Ananias

Acts 9:10–18

[Act 9:10-18 KJV] 10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I [am here], Lord. 11 And the Lord [said] unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for [one] called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting [his] hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, [even] Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Say: The Book of Acts is not only the story of the apostles' ministry; it features many others who served God and spread the gospel as well. Saul would be assisted in his newfound faith by Ananias, whom God had prepared for this very purpose. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

In Luke's writings—Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts—prayer is often seen in conjunction with visions (see also Luke 1:8–11,22; Acts 10:9–16). Saul was likely reflecting on his experiences on the Damascus Road as he prayed, and asking for forgiveness and guidance. In response, he received a vision of someone named Ananias helping restore his physical sight (verses 11–12).

Mentioned only here and in Saul's later testimony, Ananias was a disciple of Jesus living in Damascus (verse 10; 22:11–16). Ananias also had a vision, in which Jesus gave him specific directions about visiting and healing Saul (9:9–12).

Even so, Ananias at first argued with Christ; Saul had done great harm to the church in Jerusalem and was authorized to arrest Christian believers, including those in Damascus (verses 13–14). **The Lord responded in a way entirely unexpected by Ananias. The chief persecutor of Christians would become His “chosen instrument” to carry the gospel both to Gentiles and Jews (verse 15, NLT). Further, this honored status would not make him immune to persecution; Jesus affirmed that Saul would suffer greatly for His name (verse 16).**

Ananias obeyed the divine direction and found the house of Judas on Straight Street. Leaving no doubt, he announced that the Lord Jesus had sent him to bring about Saul's healing, and to help him receive the Holy Spirit (verse 17). **The laying on of hands for physical healing and for receiving the Holy Spirit occurs repeatedly in the New Testament (e.g., Luke 4:40; Acts 19:6). Saul was immediately healed, and baptized in water (verse 18). The details of his Spirit baptism are not recorded here; but Paul later testifies to the Corinthians, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you” (1 Corinthians 14:18, NLT), indicating he had been Spirit-baptized.**

Discuss

? How can believers maintain openness to God's supernatural guidance, including visions?

? Why is it important to test supernatural experiences by the written Word of God?

? Ananias was an ordinary believer who is mentioned only twice in Acts. How can this encourage those who believe they are too “ordinary” to be used by God?

Part 3—Transformed by Christ Before and After

Acts 9:19–25

[Act 9:19-25 KJV] 19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. 20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. 21 But all that heard [him] were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. 23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: 24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. 25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let [him] down by the wall in a basket.

Say: Saul (Paul) would one day write that every believer in Christ has become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). He was writing from experience. Having encountered Christ on the road to Damascus, he would be satisfied only if others would have the same opportunity through his words. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Saul was blinded in his encounter with Jesus Christ. He also stopped eating and drinking (Acts 9:9). He may have lost all desire for nourishment, or voluntarily begun a period of fasting to seek God to understand what had happened to him (see Daniel 10:12–14). After his healing and encouragement from Ananias, Saul ate again and was strengthened (Acts 9:19).

Immediately he began to proclaim that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God (verses 20–22). Jesus made the same claim at His trial. His accusers charged Him with blasphemy, punishable by death (Matthew 26:62–67).

Saul's listeners were astonished. They had fully expected him to carry out his mission of arresting disciples and taking them back to the chief priests in Jerusalem (Acts 9:21). **However, in the same way that onlookers witnessed great physical miracles of healing and judgment in the Book of Acts, they were witnessing the spiritual miracle of Saul's transformation from opponent of the faith to one who argued conclusively that Jesus is the Messiah (verse 22).**

Resource Packet Item 3: Fully Accepted

Distribute the work sheet and divide your class into small groups to discuss the questions. Ask for volunteers to share their responses. Discuss ways that your class can encourage new believers or those who do not yet believe.

Saul's powerful preaching brought opposition from those who did not believe; they banded together to kill him (verses 23–24). However, other believers rescued him by lowering him in a basket to the ground outside the city wall (verse 25).

Discuss

? How can fasting—voluntarily abstaining from food—help us focus on God?

? How is Jesus' identity as the Messiah—the One anointed by God—central to the gospel?

? Why is important for nonbelievers to see both miracles of physical healing, and miracles of lives turned entirely around?

Meeting the Church at Jerusalem

Acts 9:26–31

[Act 9:26-31 KJV] 26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, and brought [him] to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. 28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. 29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. 30 [Which] when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus. 31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Say: Saul was not alone in his zeal for Christ. Long before his experience on the Damascus Road, Jesus' disciples—some of them chosen as apostles—were testifying for Him. Saul's first effort to meet with them was marked by fear. Someone, however, recognized his genuine conversion and helped him toward acceptance. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

After three years, Saul went to Jerusalem to try to join himself in fellowship to some of the earliest Christian converts (Acts 9:26; see Galatians 1:18). His last appearance there was marked by violent persecution of the Church; not surprisingly, they feared he was masquerading as a disciple to bring them harm.

Saul, however, found a friend in Barnabas, a Levite from the island of Cyprus. Also called Joses or Joseph, the apostles called him "Barnabas," meaning "Son

of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36, NLT). Having heard what Saul had experienced in his conversion, and how he had testified of Christ in Damascus, Barnabas took Saul to the apostles and shared this report (9:27).

This gave Saul opportunity to preach at Jerusalem as he had at Damascus (verses 28–29). This brought him into conflict with Hellenistic Jews (Jews who had adopted Greek language and culture). Again, his life was threatened; and believers in Jerusalem sent him to Tarsus, his birthplace (verse 30).

Luke concluded this section of the Book of Acts with a broad summary statement about the state of the Church, now spread “throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria” (verse 31, NLT). **A lull in persecution resulted in a time of peace; believers grew spiritually; and the entire Church grew numerically with the help of the Holy Spirit.**

Discuss

? List the ways you can be an encourager of others who believe in Christ.

? Barnabas was a bridge-builder between Saul and the earlier apostles. How can his action of introduction serve as a model for us today?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: The Bible states many times that nothing is impossible for God. One proof that He provides is the dramatic turnaround in the life of Saul (Paul). Christians can be encouraged to believe God for great things as they reflect on the story of Saul, and on the many other marvelous works God did in and through the Early Church. Are there individuals who reject the gospel, regardless of how it is presented? Are there cities where it has been difficult to establish a church? Are there entire countries where sinfulness is praised as something good? God is able to change these situations for His glory, as we pray, put our trust in Him, and commit ourselves to working with Him.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Identify people you know who need God’s power to save, heal, and transform.
- Commit yourself to daily prayer for God to move in their lives and in yours.
- Make yourself available to God to be part of the answer to your prayers.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Jacob Meets God at Bethel.
Genesis 28:10–22

[Gen 28:10-22 KJV] 10 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. 11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put [them

for] his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. 13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I [am] the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; 14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I [am] with thee, and will keep thee in all [places] whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done [that] which I have spoken to thee of. 16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew [it] not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful [is] this place! this [is] none other but the house of God, and this [is] the gate of heaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put [for] his pillows, and set it up [for] a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city [was called] Luz at the first. 20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, 21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: 22 And this stone, which I have set [for] a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Tuesday:

God Calls Samuel.

1 Samuel 3:1–10

[1Sa 3:1-10 KJV] 1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; [there was] no open vision. 2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli [was] laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, [that] he could not see; 3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God [was], and Samuel was laid down [to sleep]; 4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here [am] I. 5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. 6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here [am] I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

Wednesday:

God Calls Ezekiel.
Ezekiel 2:1–10

[Eze 2:1-10 KJV] 1 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. 2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, [even] unto this very day. 4 For [they are] impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. 5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they [are] a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. 6 And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns [be] with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they [be] a rebellious house. 7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they [are] most rebellious. 8 But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. 9 And when I looked, behold, an hand [was] sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book [was] therein; 10 And he spread it before me; and it [was] written within and without: and [there was] written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Thursday:

Repent and Believe the Gospel.
Mark 1:9–15

[Mar 1:9-15 KJV] 9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: 11 And there came a voice from heaven, [saying], Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. 14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Friday:

Newly Created in Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:17–21

[2Co 5:17-21 KJV] 17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and

hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech [you] by us: we pray [you] in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Saturday:

Born Again by the Word.

1 Peter 1:17–23

[1Pe 1:17-23 KJV] 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning [here] in fear: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.