

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

My Name Is Paul

"Finally, I have it. I have official letters from the high priest that give credit to my zealous service to God. Finally, these parasites who call themselves Christians will be eradicated from the face of the Earth. Glory to God!"

Those were my last thoughts before the "light" shown down from Heaven. A light such as I had never seen before. I was travelling to Damascus with my companions when it happened. As I gazed into the light, I saw Him! The man I had despised and who these Christians were proclaiming as the Savior of the world. I was determined to rid the world of these zealots. Then everything changed.

He spoke to me. Even though I had never seen Him, I knew this was Jesus, the Son of God. He spoke to me, *"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"* I knew who this was speaking to me, but could only ask, *"who art thou, Lord?"*. He said, *"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."*

I was trembling and feared that He would strike me dead for what I had been doing. Instead, I asked, *"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"* He said, *"Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."* And then the light was gone. I was blind. My companions were speechless. They heard the voice, but did not see Jesus.

How could this be happening? I had been taught from my youth at the feet of Gamliel, the great master teacher. I was a Jew in the strictest sense. I knew the law. How could I be wrong? What would be my punishment for speaking against the Son of God. Why didn't He just strike me dead? What would await me in the city? Who was going to tell me what to do?

My companions led me to a house and for 3 days I fasted and prayed. I prayed to God to forgive me of the deeds I had done. I begged for mercy hoping I would not be stricken dead. And then a man appeared at my

door. His name was Ananias and Jesus had sent him. He spoke the words of Jesus to me and I could see again. And something else happened. Something came over me – a strange feeling. And Ananias baptized me. My life had changed!

The Apostle Paul, the greatest persecutor of Christians in the first century was now called by Jesus to be the greatest preacher of the Gospel. What a transition. We should be eternally grateful that Jesus chose this man to be His messenger. Maybe He has chosen you to be a messenger. Are you, too, *“kicking against the pricks?”* With God, all things are possible.

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *“most of your minutes”* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland