



April 23-29, 2017

Text: Acts 9:1-19

**ACTS-ION: The Dynamic Life
of Christ's Church - Then and Now**

SUMMARY OF "SERMON": Saul's conversion to Christ on the road to Damascus is one of history's most significant events. Saul, who became the Apostle Paul, was the initial pioneer in bringing the gospel to the Gentiles as well as being the writer of a key portion of the New Testament. Saul was transformed from being a religious zealot to being a humble but powerful servant of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week reveal further insights into the life of Saul (Paul) and his impact for the gospel.]

Monday, Apr. 24 – **Acts 9:19-31** [Saul quickly began sharing his new faith in Christ and also quickly felt the other side of persecution. Instead of being the persecutor he was now the persecuted as an attempt on his life was made. But the Christian community rallied in his defense.]

Tuesday, Apr. 25 – **Acts 13:4-12** [Saul, now called Paul, begins his first missionary journey.]

Wednesday, Apr. 26 – **Acts 14:8-20** [The incident at Lystra illustrates that Paul was faithful to preaching the good news of Jesus and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit even though he faced such persecution.]

Thursday, Apr. 27 – **Romans 7:7-25** [This insightful but perplexing section illustrates the inner tension Paul struggled with in coming to accept that while the law is good it cannot change our hearts. Only Jesus Christ can by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why Paul emphasized so strongly that it is by God's grace alone we are saved.]

Friday, Apr. 28 – **Philippians 3:1-10** [This is one of Paul's strongest statements of how radically his conversion to Christ had transformed him. If religion could save anyone, Paul argues, he would be the poster boy for religion. Few could match his zeal to be right with God on his own behavior.]

Saturday, Apr. 29 – **I Timothy 1:12-20** [In reflecting on the miracle of his conversion, Paul again is amazed at God's grace to him in Christ. In spite of Paul's religious zeal, he now sees that he was "the worst of sinners" and deserved nothing from God – yet received everything by God's grace in Christ.]



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