

# EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

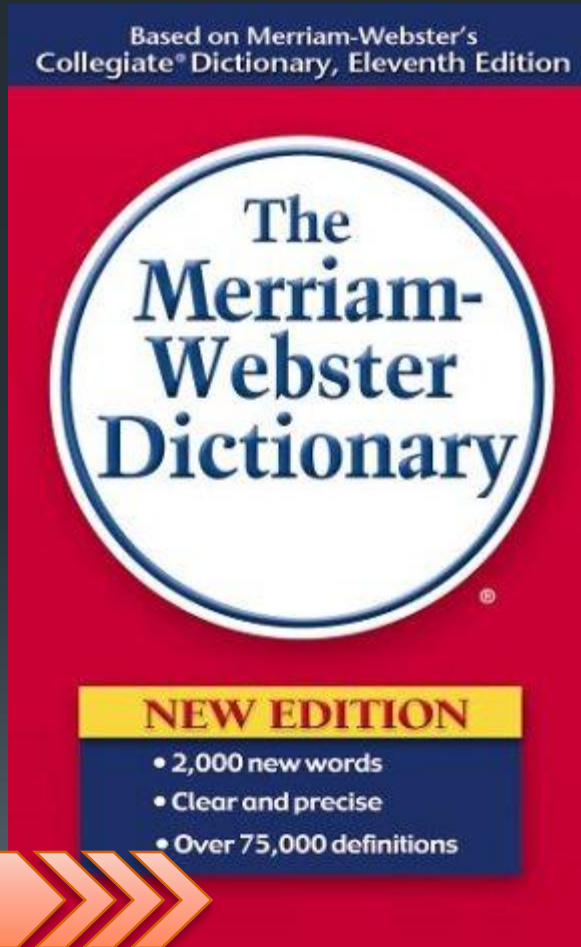


## *Conversion of* *Saul of Tarsus*

Acts 9:1-30; 22:1-21; 26:12-18



## Convert; Converted



transitive verb

- 1 - a : **to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another** b : to bring about a religious conversion in
- 2 - a : to alter the physical or chemical nature or properties of especially in manufacturing b (1) : **to change from one form or function to another** (2) : to alter for more effective utilization

# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS



## Convert; Converted



**Matthew 18:3-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are **converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS



## Convert; Converted



**Acts 3:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,





# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARSAUS



## Convert; Converted



**James 5:19-20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone

**turns him back**, (*convert him KJV*)

<sup>20</sup> let him know that he who **turns** (*converteth – KJV*) **a sinner from the error of his way** will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.



## Convert; Converted



Luke 15:11-24

- ✦ Not merely a change in actions –
- ✦ A change in knowledge –
- ✦ A change in conviction -
- ✦ A change in allegiance –
- ✦ A change in thinking & will –
- ✦ A change in commitment – resulting in a change in relationship & identity -
- ✦ A change in who we are – how we talk – where we go – what we do -

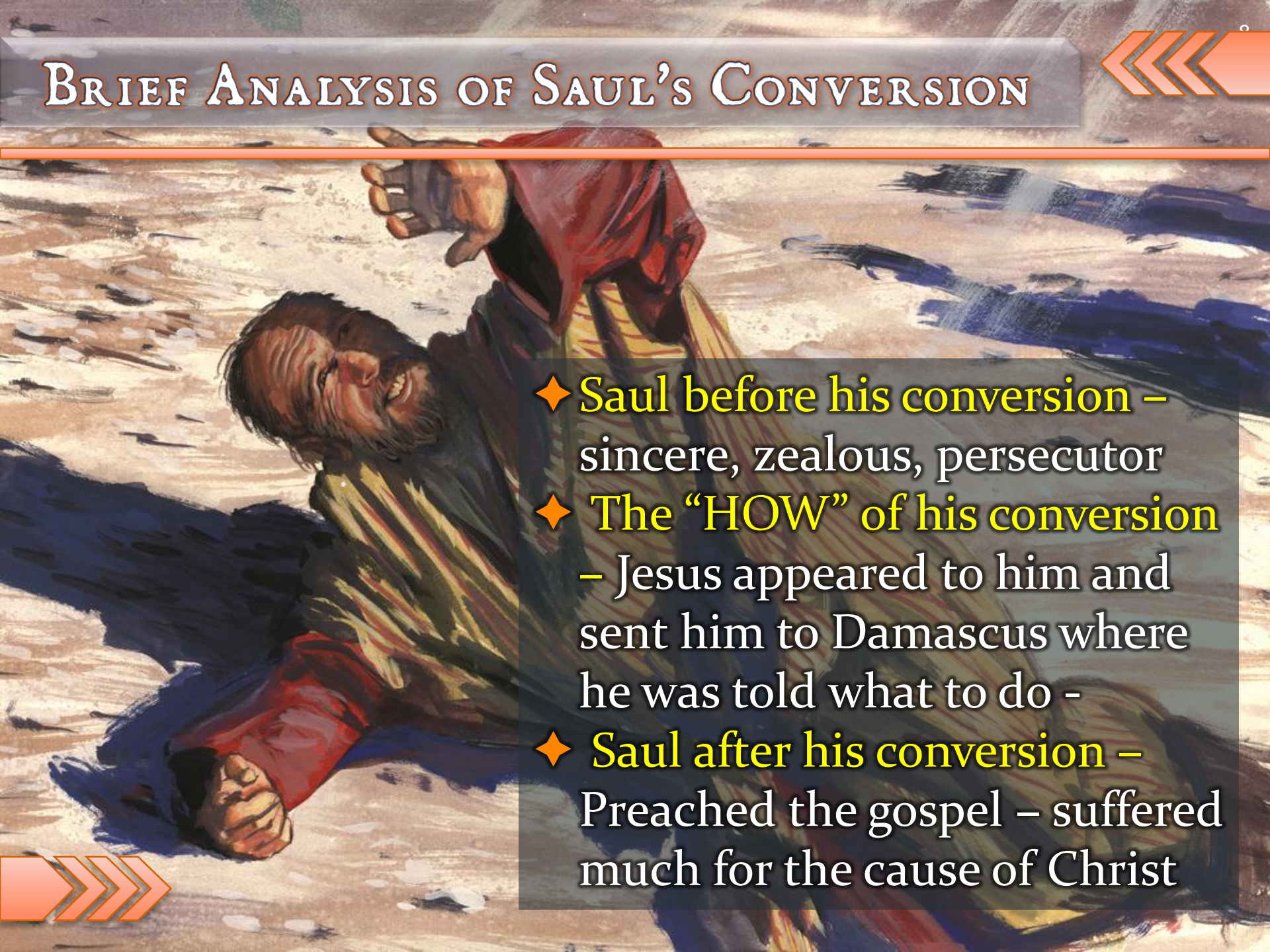


## Psalm 19:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD *is* perfect,  
converting the soul; The testimony  
of the LORD *is* sure, making wise  
the simple;

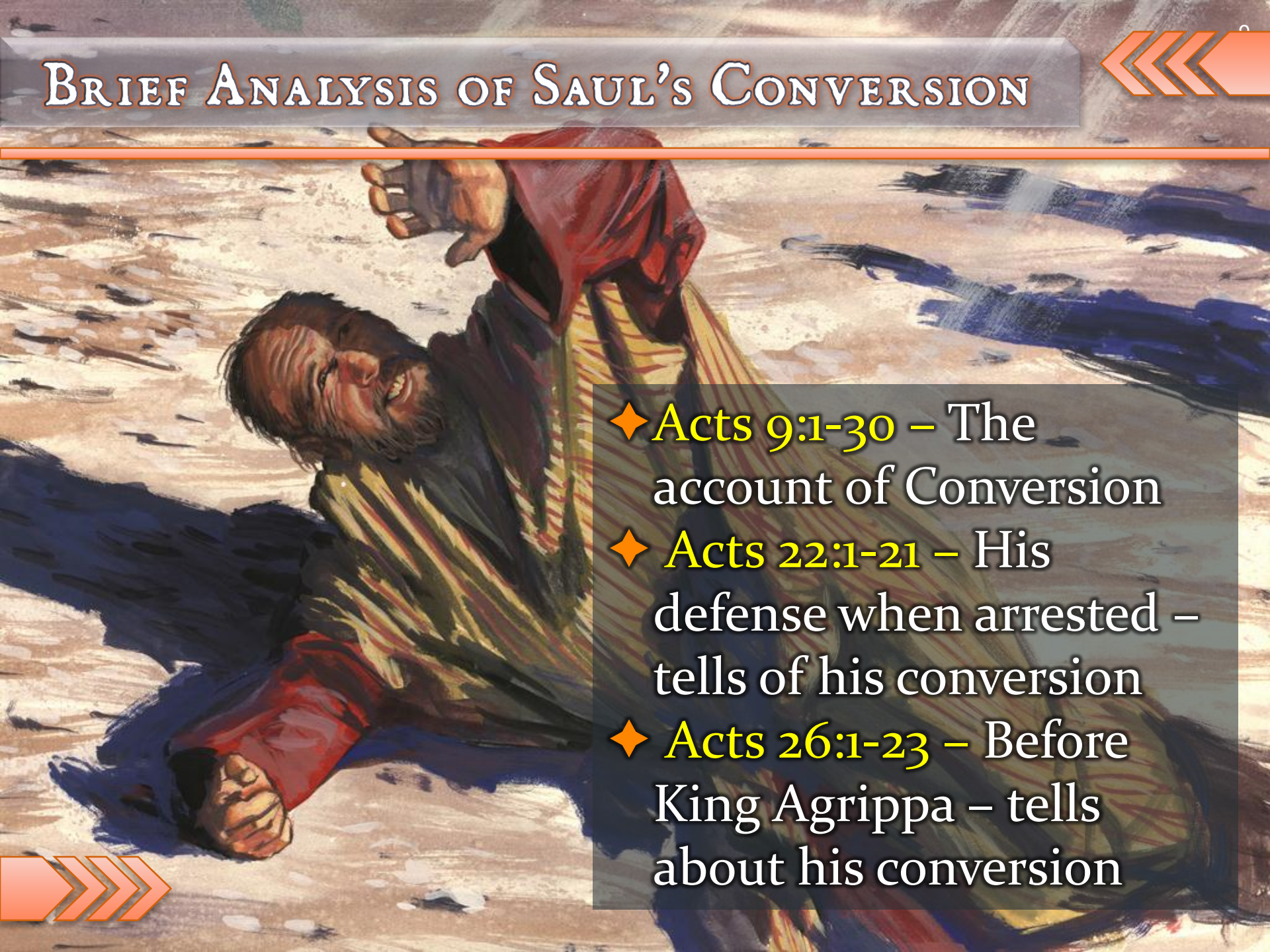


# BRIEF ANALYSIS OF SAUL'S CONVERSION

- 
- ♦ **Saul before his conversion** – sincere, zealous, persecutor
  - ♦ **The “HOW” of his conversion** – Jesus appeared to him and sent him to Damascus where he was told what to do -
  - ♦ **Saul after his conversion** – Preached the gospel – suffered much for the cause of Christ



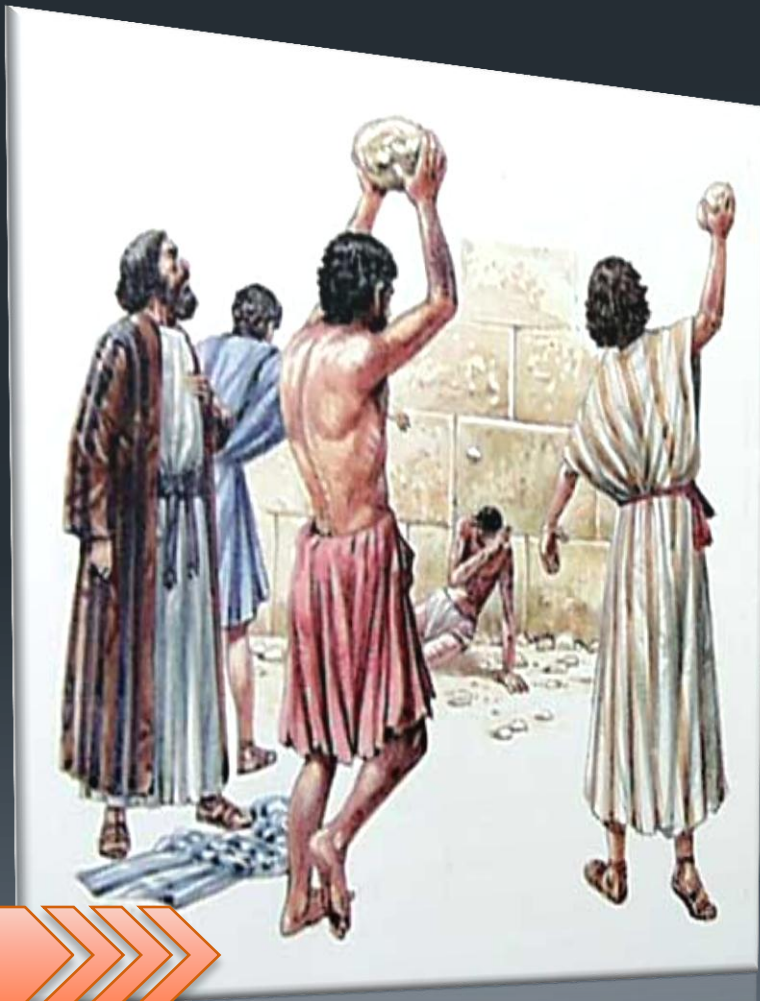
# BRIEF ANALYSIS OF SAUL'S CONVERSION

- 
- ♦ Acts 9:1-30 – The account of Conversion
  - ♦ Acts 22:1-21 – His defense when arrested – tells of his conversion
  - ♦ Acts 26:1-23 – Before King Agrippa – tells about his conversion



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUS

## Before His Conversion



### Enemy - Persecutor

- ✦ Acts 7:58 - An accomplice
- ✦ Acts 8:1-3 - Havoc of church / prison
- ✦ Acts 9:1-2 - Threats & murder
- ✦ Acts 22:4-5 – Death
- ✦ Acts 26:9-11 - “Enraged against them”



## Before His Conversion



## Very Religious

✦ A Pharisee - Acts 23:6

### Philippians 3:4-6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS

## Before His Conversion



## Very Religious

✦ A Pharisee - Acts 23:6

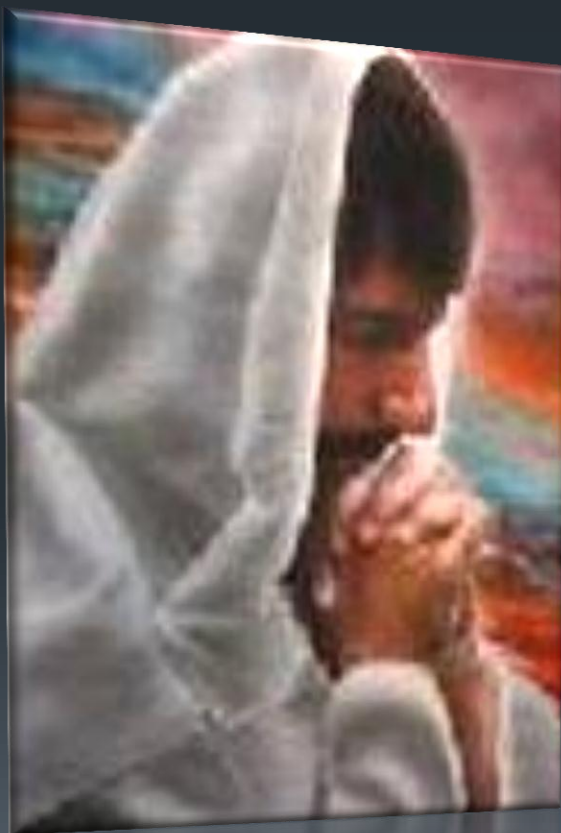
### Galatians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and *tried to* destroy it. <sup>14</sup> And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS

## Before His Conversion



### Devout - Sincere

- ✦ Acts 22:3 – zealous towards God
- ✦ Acts 23:1 - I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day
- ✦ Acts 24:16 - I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.
- ✦ Acts 26:9 - Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS

## Saul's Conversion

### Jesus Appeared

- ✦ Bright Light (9:3; 22:6; 26:13)
- ✦ Voice (9:4-6; 22:7-10; 26:14-18)
  - ❖ "Why persecute me?"
  - ❖ "I am Jesus"
  - ❖ "Go into city told what to do"
  - ❖ "Appeared to you -send to Gentles" (22:21; 26:17-20)
- ✦ Blinded (9:7-9; 22:11)



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS

## Saul's Conversion

### Jesus Appeared

- ✦ Purpose of appearance:
  - ❖ Qualified to be an apostle (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor. 9:1)
  - ❖ Sent him to Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16; 22:21; 26:16-18)



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS

## Saul's Conversion



### Not Saved On The Road

- ✦ Saved before being told what he must do? – (Acts 9:6; 22:10)
- ✦ Saved but still miserable??? - (Acts 9:9,11)
- ✦ Saved – but still in his sins??? - (Acts 22:16)
- ✦ Saved without calling on the name of the Lord? - (Acts 22:16)



## Saul's Conversion

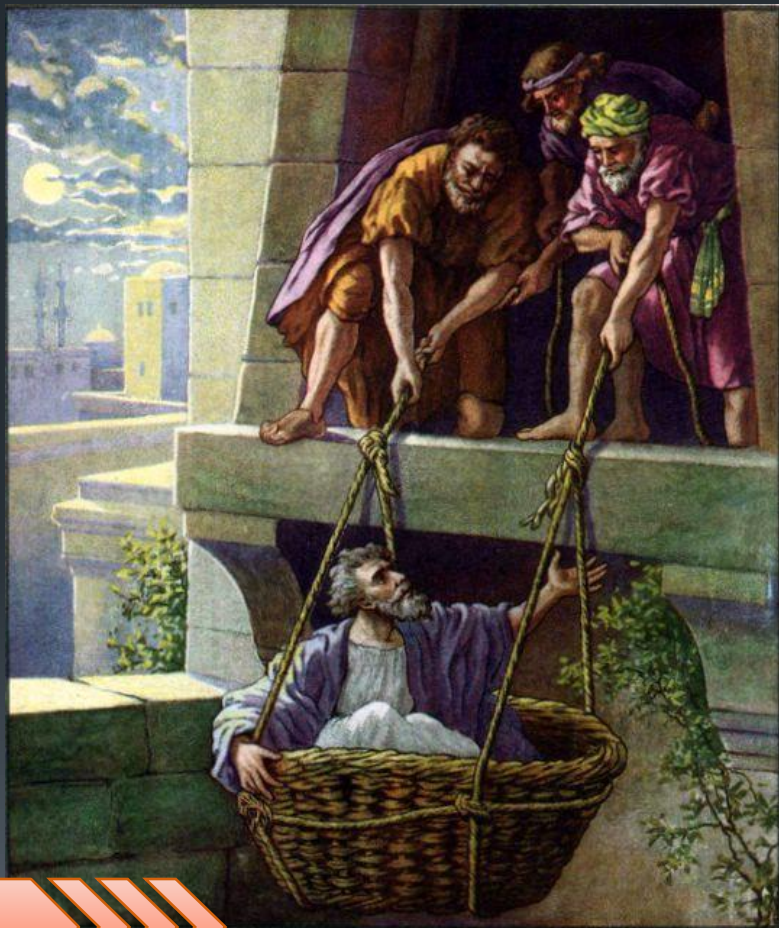


### Jesus Sent A Preacher

- ✦ Ananias told Saul what he **MUST** do – Acts 9:10-19
  - ❖ Not to pray or ask Jesus into his heart . . . (Acts 9:11; 22:16)
  - ❖ Believed in Christ (John 8:24)
  - ❖ Repented (Acts 17:30-31)
  - ❖ He was told to be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16)

# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUS

## Saul After His Conversion

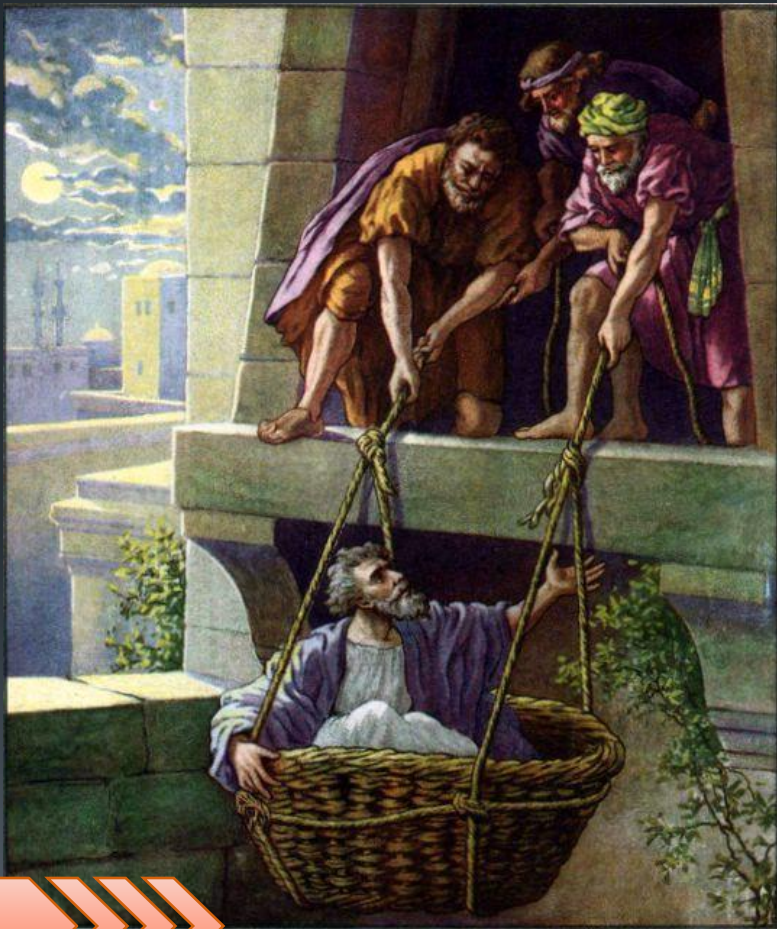


### A Sincere, Devoted, Loyal Disciple

- ✦ Forgiven (Acts 22:16)
- ✦ Taught (Acts 9:20-22; 26:20-23)
- ✦ Identified (9:26-28)
  - ❖ Local church membership
  - ❖ Church careful
  - ❖ Active in the local church



## Saul After His Conversion

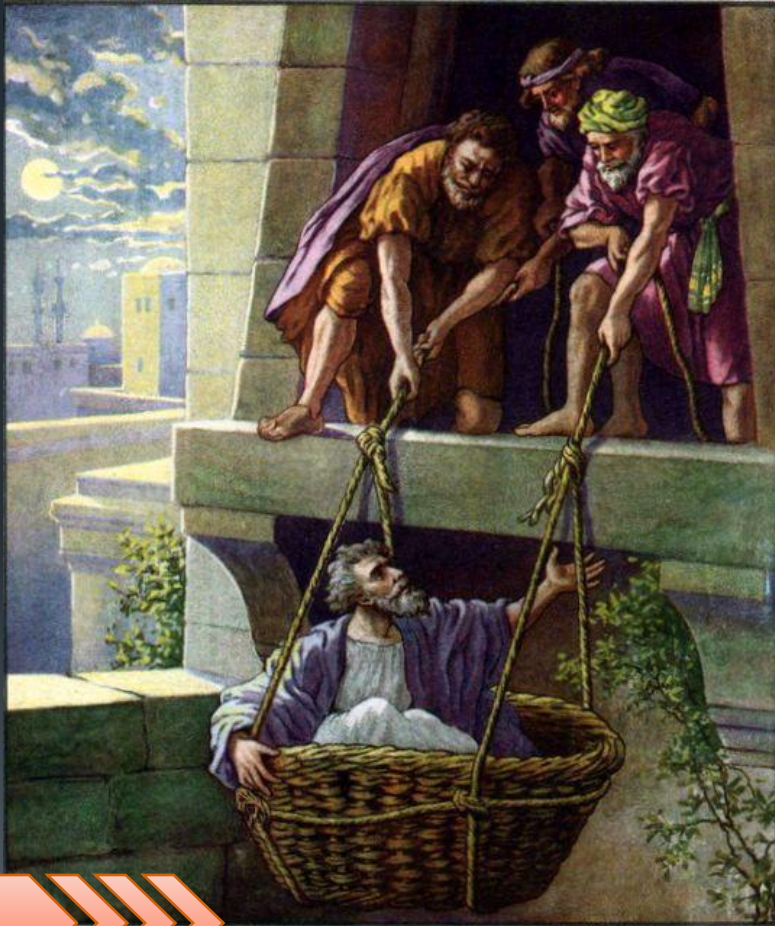


### A Sincere, Devoted, Loyal Disciple

Acts 26:19-21 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. <sup>21</sup> For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill *me*.

## Saul After His Conversion



### A Sincere, Devoted, Loyal Disciple

**1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was with me.*



# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS

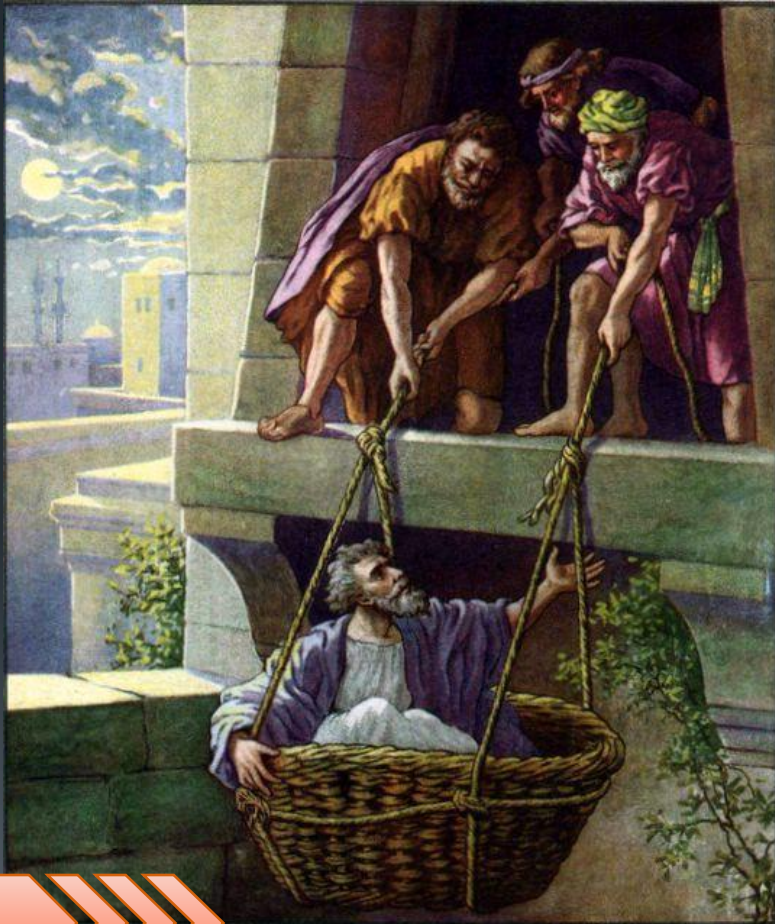


## 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Are they ministers of Christ?--I speak as a fool--I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup> From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup> *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup> in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- <sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUS

## Saul After His Conversion



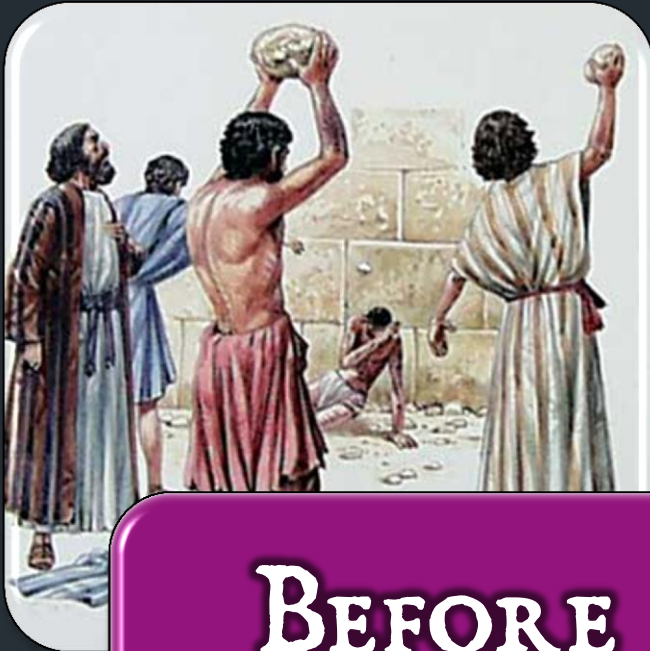
### A Sincere, Devoted, Loyal Disciple

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, . . .

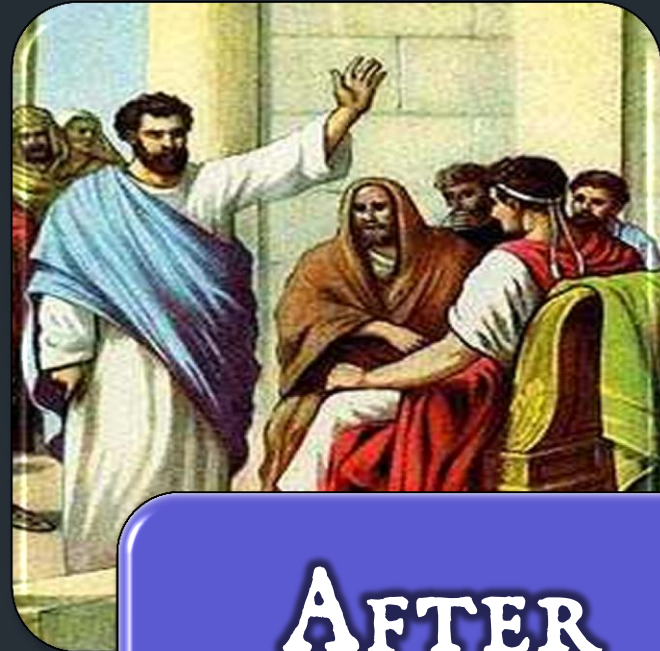
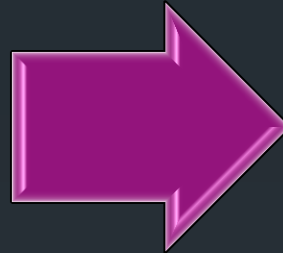


# CONVERSION OF SAUL FROM TARUSUS



## BEFORE

- Adversary
- Enemy
- Destroyer
- Persecutor



## AFTER

- Advocate
- Defender
- Builder
- Persecuted

# CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	✓ 37,38	Implied	✓ 38,41
Samaria – 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 9:18
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia – 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor – 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5



## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS

- ◆ Salvation NOT inherited
- ◆ Not saved because taught by popular teachers
- ◆ Not saved just because religious and sincere
- ◆ Sincere people can harm Christ and His church
- ◆ Not saved by faith only



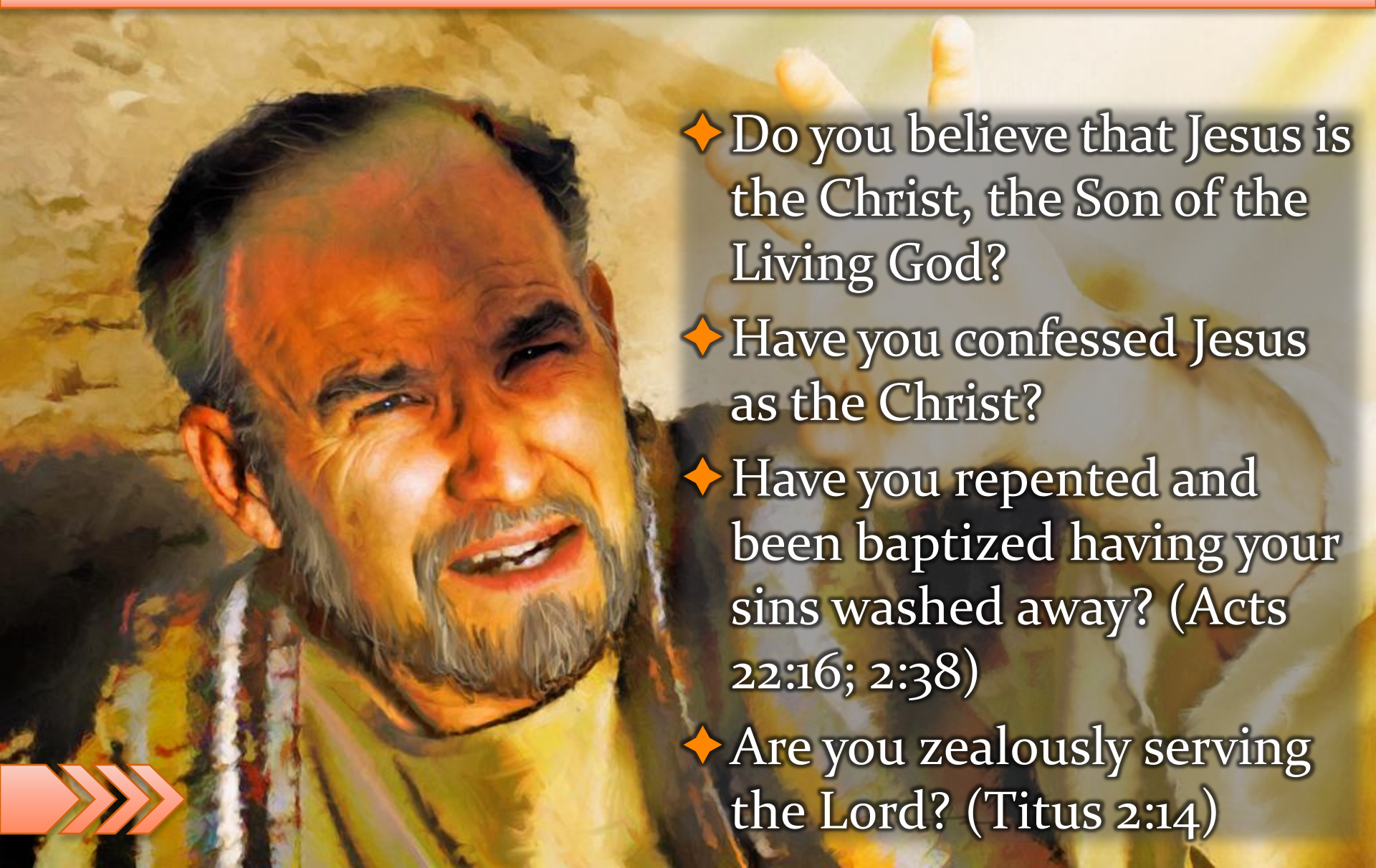
## LESSONS & APPLICATIONS

- ♦ A penitent person who believes the truth has their sins washed away when they are baptized
- ♦ Converted people are devoted to the cause of Christ
- ♦ Those faithful to Christ may indeed suffer many things in this life – but if faithful – the Lord will reward us!





# HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?



- ◆ Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- ◆ Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?
- ◆ Have you repented and been baptized having your sins washed away? (Acts 22:16; 2:38)
- ◆ Are you zealously serving the Lord? (Titus 2:14)







# THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

## ACTS 9:1-30; 22:1-21; 26:12-18

### **Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared July 19-23, 2011

Preached July 24, 2011

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010 –

Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

More PPT & Audio Sermons:

<http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/donmaccla/2011SermonPage.html>