

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

208 A

# THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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## AN EXEMPLARY EXAMPLE – A MAN OF GREAT CONVICTION

- Never A Doubt** The dedicated spirituality of Paul both before and after he became a Christian cannot be doubted. When interrogated before the Jewish Sanhedrin, he stated: (Acts 23:1) *“I have lived in all \_\_\_\_\_ conscience \_\_\_\_\_ until this day.”*
- Brief Particulars** Saul (his Jewish name) of Tarsus (his native city in Asia Minor) was, by his own report, *“of the stock of \_\_\_\_\_, of the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_, an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a \_\_\_\_\_.”* (Phil 3:5) He freely admitted (1 Tim 1:13) that he had been *“a \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_”* who *“obtained \_\_\_\_\_, because I did it \_\_\_\_\_ in unbelief.”* He had been wrong but his convictions were sincere.
- Paul’s Former Religion** His own words: (Acts 22:3ff) *“I --- am a \_\_\_\_\_, born in Tarsus, a city in \_\_\_\_\_, yet brought up in this city at the feet of \_\_\_\_\_, and taught according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law of the fathers.”* Gamaliel (Acts 5:34) was a noted Pharisee *“\_\_\_\_\_ of the law.”* Paul says that he *“was \_\_\_\_\_ toward God, as ye all are this day.”*
- His Belief: Punish The Infidels** Jesus warned (Jn 16:2) *“The time cometh, that whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ you will think that he \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_.”* Saul’s Pharisee-istic belief: (Acts 22:4) *“I persecuted this way unto the \_\_\_\_\_, binding and \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ both men and women.”* He states that he did this by authority (V5) of *“the \_\_\_\_\_ priest --- and all the estate of the \_\_\_\_\_”* who gave him *“letters --- to bring them which were there \_\_\_\_\_ unto Jerusalem, for \_\_\_\_\_.”* How opposite is this to Jesus’ plea for understanding?
- The First Steps To Saul’s Conversion – Acts 9, 22, 26** (a) **He listened to new truth.** He asked (Acts 9:5), *“Who \_\_\_\_\_, Lord?”* and was told, *“Jesus whom thou \_\_\_\_\_.”* (b) **He investigated.** He asked (V6), *“Lord, what wilt thou have \_\_\_\_\_?”*
- The Secondary Steps – Acts 9, 22, 26** He was told (9:6), *“\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou \_\_\_\_\_ do.”* **He obeyed the initial instructions.** This man was (V13) \_\_\_\_\_. He was afraid of Saul and mentioned, *“I have heard by \_\_\_\_\_ of this man, how much \_\_\_\_\_ he hath done to thy \_\_\_\_\_ at Jerusalem.”* No doubt Ananias had heard of Saul’s participation in the murder of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 7:57 – 8:3).
- The Completion Of Saul’s Conversion** Ananias obeyed God and went to where Saul was staying. He told Saul what to do. The result was that Saul (9:18) *“arose, and was baptized.”* We find Ananias’ exact words in (Acts 22:16), *“And now why \_\_\_\_\_ thou? arise, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_, calling on the name of the Lord.”* **Saul was baptized to wash away his sins.** He had become steeped in sin while ardently practicing his former religion.
- He Obeyed The Final Instructions** It does no good to only follow part of the orders. In building the ark (Gen 6:22), *“Thus did \_\_\_\_\_; according to \_\_\_\_\_ that God \_\_\_\_\_ him.”* Saul didn’t “pick and choose” but **obeyed every instruction from God regarding his conversion.**