

QUESTIONS TO THINK THIS WEEK,

1. How can a religious Bible student like Paul, with zeal for God, end up working against God's purposes? Is it possible to be an honest follower of God and, in the name of religion, persecute other people?
2. What was the pivotal point in Paul's experience? Why?
3. Why are many people so eager to talk about all the things they are doing for God, as if these things make them appear more zealous and perhaps more deserving of God's salvation?
4. What exactly is the gospel of Jesus Christ that Paul said he was not ashamed of? (Read Romans 1:16, 17.) What does it mean to know nothing "except Jesus Christ and Him crucified"? (See 1 Corinthians 2:2)



REMINDERS FOR THE WEEK,

ONLINE ANNOUNCEMENTS,

www.orlandocentral.org/announcements

ONLINE MEETINGS *,

Tuesday, 7pm, Women in the Bible with Coloring

Wednesday, 7:30pm, Prayer in the Psalms

* **Facebook** and **Youtube**. Look for Orlando Central Church or access our website at www.orlandocentral.org/broadcast

ONLINE GIVING,

www.orlandocentral.org/giving

EXTRAORDINARY DISCIPLESHIP SERIES, #12

EXTRAORDINARY ENCOUNTER

*"Paul, an apostle
(not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ
and God the Father who raised Him from the dead)"*

Galatians 1:1

*"But the Lord said to him,
'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name
before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel'."*

Acts 9:15

What kind of people were the disciples?

1. WHO WAS SAUL?

1.1 Saul was born in _____
Acts 22:3a

*"I am indeed a Jew, **born in Tarsus** of Cilicia..."* Acts 22:3a

1.2 Saul grew up in _____
learning from _____ Acts 22:3b

*"...but brought up in **this city** at the feet of **Gamaliel**"* Acts 22:3b

1.3 Saul was _____ . Acts 18:3

“3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for **by occupation they were tentmakers.**” Acts 18:3

1.4 Saul was _____ in everything he did. Acts 22:3c,4

“**[I]** was **zealous** toward God as you all are today. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women”. Acts 22:3c,4

*It is possible to be passionate about God,
to know about Him from the Bible,
and yet not know Him.*

2. THE ENCOUNTER

2.1 We encounter Saul in a _____ scene, Acts 8:1a, 9:1,2

“Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen...” Acts 8:1a NLT

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.” Acts 9:1,2

2.2 (Jesus, the) Light from _____ encounters Saul, Acts 9:3-6

“ 3 As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, **a light from heaven** suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?’ 5 ‘Who are you, lord?’ Saul asked. And the voice replied, ‘**I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!**’ 6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do’.” Acts 9:3-6

2.3 The encounter that changes _____ , Philipians 3:7-10

“7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed **I also count all things loss** for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them as **rubbish** [gr.skubalon], that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,” Philipians 3:7-10

**I, _____ ,
want to be a disciple of Jesus and receive
His EXTRAORDINARY all-consuming,
entire-life-permeating light of His GRACE...
and become a chosen vessel.**