

## **Acts, Part 08**

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 6/24/20

### **Introduction Summary**

After God Almighty and our Lord Jesus Christ, the most important people in the Bible are Abraham and the Apostle Paul. It was through Abraham's lineage that Jesus was born. And Paul wrote two thirds of the New Testament. In covering **Acts 9:1-18**, we will look at the life of Paul.

- I. **Acts 9:1-9:** God chose Saul, who is also called Paul (Acts 13:9).
  - A. This was before Pentecost (Acts 1:15-22).
  - B. Peter decided that someone from their group would replace Judas.
  - C. Matthias was chosen by men, not by God (Acts 1:24-26).
  
- II. Who is Paul?
  - A. Paul consented to stoning Stephen to death (Acts 8:1-6).
  - B. He was a high ranking Pharisee (Phil. 3:5, 6).
  - C. He was born in Tarsus.
  - D. Paul was highly educated, trained by Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).
  - E. Gamaliel was the most influential leader in Israel (Acts 5:34-40).
  
- III. **Acts 9:1-2:** Paul held a high rank.
  - A. This movement was called "The Way" (Acts 22:3-4; John 14:6).
  - B. On the long journey to Damascus, Paul killed and imprisoned many Christians (Acts 22:3-5).
  
- IV. Paul testifies of his conversion experience (Acts 22:6-10).
  - A. God appointed Paul, not man.
  - B. Only God chooses men and women for ministry (Acts 22:11-14).
  - C. Jesus appeared to Paul and sent him (Acts 22:21).
  
- V. God made His purpose clear to Paul.
  - A. It's hard to fight against God's way (Acts 26:14).
  - B. God appeared to him (Acts 26:16).
  
- VI. **Acts 9:2-11:** God gives specifics when He calls.
  - A. God, also, gave me the specifics about my call.
  - B. Seek the Lord, and He will give you specifics (Mat. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13).
  - C. **Acts 9:12:** Laying on of hands is a principle doctrine of Christ.

- D. **Acts 9:13-18:** Ananias was concerned. But God confirmed Paul's calling.
- VII. Grace comes with every call of God (1 Cor. 3:9-10).
- A. *According to* (Gk. *kata*) means the manner required for something.
  - B. *Grace* was given to Paul.
  - C. *Wise* means supernatural insight.
  - D. *Masterbuilder* (Gk. *architekton*) means architect.
  - E. God gave Paul grace to fulfill His call.
  - F. Paul *received* that grace.
  - G. Grace helps and assists you when you need it (Heb. 4:16).
  - H. One of the names of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:29).
  - I. Paul is anointed by the Holy Ghost to do God's will.
- VIII. Grace is the anointing; it is the manifestation of the power of God.
- A. You were literally saved by grace (Eph. 2:2-10).
  - B. Grace saved you, but your faith in Jesus opened the door for grace.
  - C. In the natural, Paul did not relate to the Gentiles.
  - D. But God anointed him to minister to the Gentiles.
  - E. The anointing is what brought success for Paul.
  - F. Be patient and follow the anointing of God (Heb. 6:12).
  - G. *I heard a testimony of a man who pastored 200 people for 20 years. Then, suddenly, they went from 200 to 2,000 people. Grace came on him. He stayed in God's will, and the anointing came upon him.*
  - H. The leaders perceived the grace given to Paul (Gal. 2:9).
  - I. Both Peter and Paul were first called, and then God equipped them.
- IX. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not a democracy.
- A. God is a theocracy. He calls and He sends.
  - B. Paul would not take credit for his success (1 Cor. 15:3-11).
  - C. We don't take credit. We thank God for all He has done.
  - D. Receive His grace (Heb. 4:16).
  - E. If God will forgive a murder He will forgive us of our sins (1 John 1:9).

### **Closing Summary**

Paul's life was an example of how powerful God's grace is. We can learn from his ministry that who God calls is His business. We must spend time with God in order to hear His call for ourselves, receive His call and submit to His call. When we do that, we open the door for His grace to equip us and bring it to pass.