**The Conversion Of Saul**

Acts 9:1-2 “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.”

Saul was later known as Paul and wrote almost half the books in the New Testament. But at this time he is still a practicing Jew, and persecuting Christians – Acts 22:4 “And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.”

He did this in all good conscience – Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”

Many so called Christians think that understanding and actually practicing the truth is not all that important, that all that is really important in our service to God is being sincere. But Saul was sincere even before he became a Christian even while he was persecuting Christians to the death

Prov 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Sincerity is important but not enough. The truth must be believed and practiced – John 8:31-32 – “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Let’s continue on with Saul’s conversion account.

Acts 9:3-6 “And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

Saul at this point believed in Jesus. He asked who it was, and Jesus replied “I am Jesus.” Saul then responded “what wilt thou have me to do?,” so Saul believed Jesus was who he said he was.

Most denominations would say Saul was saved at this point because he believed in Jesus, but was he?

Evidently “faith alone” is not enough because Saul was a believer at this point, but he was still in his sins at least three days later – Acts 22:16 – “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

So Saul was a believer in Christ but still needed to do something to get his sins washed away. Most churches say belief is enough and therefore Saul was saved on the road to Damascus, but Acts 22:16 proves otherwise.

Not only that, but Acts 22:16 proves a person has to be baptized to be saved. Acts 22:16 shows being baptized is the way a person calls upon (asks) God to wash away his sins. Baptism is when the blood of Christ washes away our sins. A person is not saved until they are baptized:

* Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be [condemned].”
* John 3:5 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
* Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
* Gal 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
* I Pet 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

The son “Trust And Obey” is right, it takes both belief and obedience to be saved:

* Heb 5:9 being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.
* Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven
* I Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth
* Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved …, Acts 2:38, 22:16, Gal 3:26-27, I Pet 3:21
* II Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
* Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life.
* II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.