

CP - 10/16/22

Acts 9:19b-25-“Saul’s Ministry in Damascus”

Introduction:

-Salvation gives us a new nature with new capacities

- Those capacities are fleshed out in sanctification
- Westminster Shorter Catechism- "the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness."

The Spirit sanctifies our lives as we are filled by Him.

- some things he takes away
- some things he redefines and refocuses
- He took Saul’s natural strengths and refined them
 - natural leader with strong will power
 - strong convictions
 - self-starter
 - bold and motivated
 - gifted thinker and speaker
- Others were eliminated and replaced with more desirable
 - hatred with love
 - restless, aggressive spirit with peace
 - rough hard nose with gentleness
 - pride with humility
- Only the Spirit of God can transform a life like this
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18- And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

Sermon Outline:

I. Saul connects with the fellowship

- a mark of true salvation is a desire to be in fellowship with other Christians
- 1 John 3:14- We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death**

II. Saul preaches Jesus as the Son of God

- “immediately”
- Jesus- unlocked the OT for him
- Saul preached Jesus as the awaited Messiah

III. Saul’s testimony is doubted

- already starting out hard and it didn’t end
- 2 Corinthians 11:23-29

IV. Saul increases in strength

-it only fueled his fire and faithfulness

3 years time hop- Galatians 1:15-18/ 2 Corinthians 11:23-33

V. Saul escapes and heads to Jerusalem

-both jews and Arabs were frustrated with him

Application:

1. **Connect to God's People**
 2. **Preach Christ**
 3. **Don't be discouraged by the doubts of others**
 4. **Believe God for the process of transformation in your life**
 - sanctification is both positional and progressive
 - Hebrews 10:14- For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
 - the cross purchased both your justification and your sanctification*
 - Philippians 1:6- 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
 - Ephesians 2:10- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- *Perseverance of the saints**
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - he has promised to sanctify you (trust Him with eternity, trust Him now)
 - let God do His work
 - some he molds and some he chips/chizels
 - be filled by the Spirit and believe God for change...

Practical ways to transformation:

- Make being filled by the Spirit your priority— submitting to the Spirit
- Develop a sensitivity to sin
- Study the word and it'll do both of those
- Don't grieve the Spirit... walk in obedience step by step

Small Group Questions:

1. What from the Bible passage and sermon spoke to you?
2. How does knowing Jesus unlock the OT?
3. How is a desire to fellowship with other Christians a mark of salvation? Can one be a healthy Christian and not be committed to other Christians? Why do you think so many people think they can love Jesus but not the church?

4. How is sanctification both positional and progressive? Do we have a role in our own sanctification? If so, what is it?

5. What is doctrine of the perseverance of the saints? Does it encourage you? Read Philippians 1:6. Do we persevere on our own strength or is God the One who causes it? How does this encourage you?

6. Do you grow frustrated with your own “process” of sanctification? What causes it? How can this sermon help you?

7. What were the practical steps mentioned Sunday? How can these help us in walking with the Lord?