



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

New Man, New Message

Scripture: Acts 9:20-31

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

For My Family:

What is the most exciting thing that has ever happened to you? What did you do after it happened? Didn't you want to tell everybody and anybody that would listen? That's exactly what Saul began to do. Saul's life had been radically changed. He had been dead in his sin, but now he was alive. He had been blind (both spiritually and then physically), but now he could see. He was a new creation in Christ Jesus. Instead of persecuting Jesus, now he serving Him! Jesus was alive and had spoken. Saul didn't waste a moment. Immediately he began to go to the synagogues (which are like church buildings for Jews) and declare that Jesus was the Son of God! That Jesus was alive!

As you would expect, the Jews were amazed. Saul had been hunting down followers of Jesus and throwing them and their families into prison, or worse! Now he was saying that *he* followed Jesus and that Jesus was God. When we give our lives to Jesus, we are born again, a new creation, and people should be able to see that there is something different about us. Even if we don't tell others about who Jesus is (which we absolutely should), they should be able to see who He is in how we treat one another and hear Him in how we speak. As we follow Jesus and listen to and obey the things He tells us in His Word, we begin to look less and less like people who don't know Jesus and more and more like Jesus Himself. In other words, knowing Jesus changes us, and it shows the world around us that He is real.

The Jews weren't the only ones who were amazed. When Saul came to Jerusalem to join the disciples, they were afraid of him, not believing that he was a changed man. It is important for us to know that God's love can reach even the most wicked heart. If He can save us, He can save anyone, and we shouldn't be surprised or suspicious when someone we never imagined coming to Jesus gets saved. Barnabas sets a good example for us follow. He believed Saul and introduced him to the apostles, who heard how God had transformed him and had already begun to use him for His glory. This was a great encouragement to all the churches, and we too should be encouraged when people give their lives to God. The churches welcomed Saul into their family, even though he had probably torn some of their families apart. And so it was that the very man who had done everything in his power to destroy the church became a man who God began to use to build the church up and cause it to grow, boldly sharing the good news of Jesus with any who would listen.

Questions for Young Children:

What did Saul begin to do after he became a Christian?

What are some things that you could do and say to show the world that Jesus is real?

What was the name of the man who welcomed Saul when all the other disciples were afraid of him?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What are some excuses that Saul could have used NOT to tell others the truth about Jesus?

Why did Saul include that Jesus was the Son of God when he preached in the synagogues?

If someone didn't know you, and they could see a recording of a day of your life, would they be able to tell that you were a follower of Jesus?