

# The Power of one changed Man!

## Acts 9: 1-20

Moses was the Center of the OT witness for God

Paul became the Center of the NT Declaration of the Gospel

Moses was told up front what he was to do with his life

Paul was also told up front what he was to do with his life

- He became a vessel/An anointed vessel
- He Explained the Old and the New Testament to the world
- He built off of the Truths Jesus and explained the many Hidden Truths

(see Ephesians 3: 1-9)

He was born a free man but made himself a bond servant to Christ (Acts 22: 25- )

He was continually humbled by his past sins and he called himself the chief of sinners.

He made it clear that His Citizenship was in Heaven, but he was still in this world.

He preached peace but everywhere he went he stirred up a riot. Someone was saved and someone went to jail.

He wrote 14 epistles under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Moses led a nation	Paul reached the individual
Moses left the Jews upon the world	Paul left the name of Christ upon the world
Moses revealed God as Lawgiver	Paul revealed Christ as Grace Giver
Moses pointed the nation of Israel to the promised land but could not take them there because of his shortcomings	Paul pointed believers to the land of living water, the heavenly Jerusalem and went ahead to wait on us
Moses looked forward to that glorious day when children would enjoy the promised land	Paul presented Christians as dead to this world and already seated in the heavens.
Moses helped Israel establish a Kingdom on earth	Paul helped us become part of a Kingdom Eternal

However Paul was not the Savior but one who pointed to the only one

He had a head-long collision with Jesus Christ and never got over it. One of the things that motivated him so was his great failures before coming to Jesus – yet he was still loved and accepted by the Lord.

He Repented/Surrendered/was Baptized/Received the Holy Spirit – the same zeal that he gave to sin, he now gave to service.

## **Why was this man so influential?**

1. He was in debt to Jesus

I am debtor both to the Greek and to the Barbarian; both to the wise and to the unwise, so, I am ready to preach ...

2. He was not ashamed

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus.... it is the power of God to everyone who believeth, to the Jew first and then to the Greek... (Romans 1)

3. He preached the Person of Jesus

He did not fight the Idolatry of his day but he lifted up Jesus!

John 12: 32 “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” Instead of trying to destroy the worship of Diana by preaching against her, he preached Jesus Crucified, Risen, Ascended and coming again!

4. He preached to all, he excluded no one:

He preached Christ/Crucified/Risen/Ascended/Coming again

He preached at Antioch/Ephesus/Corinth/Athens/The coast of the Adriatic Seas/Spain/Rome

He did not condemn the religions of the day; He preached Jesus Crucified, Risen, Ascended, and Returning

5. He was willing to pay whatever price to preach:

He suffered 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 11

– In stripes above measure

– In prisons more frequently

– Five times 39 stripes

Three times beaten with rods

Once stoned and left for dead

Three times ship wrecked

A night and a day in the deep

Perils of water/Perils of robbers/ perils of my own countrymen/perils of heathens/perils in the city/perils in the wilderness/Perils in the sea

Perils with false brethren/perils in weariness/perils in painfulness/perils in hunger/perils in Thirst/perils in fasting/perils in the cold/perils in nakedness

6. He loved the Bride of Jesus, the Churches
7. He was determined to finished well, as he wrote his final letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 4) – He said “all men have forsaken me, I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge... Even in preparing to die, he said “I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

But remember who this is, this is the terror-driven Jew who was on a quest to cause havoc to all believers. His own words in Acts 26: 9 *“I verily though with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth, which things I did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priest and when they were put to death I gave my voice against them and I punished them oft in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even into strange cities.”*

He is a display as to the power of one man!