

Where Saul Of Tarsus Was Not Saved

Acts 22:1-16

Introduction:

- A. Saul of Tarsus "chief of sinners" became "our beloved brother Paul." (cf. 1 Tim. 1:15; 2 Pet. 3:15)
 - 1. How was Saul saved?
 - 2. Where was Saul saved? -- Answering this will answer first.
 - 3. Why is it important to know?
- B. Saul of Tarsus was not saved in three places where people often say he was.

Discussion:

I. He Was Not Saved *On The Damascus Road!*

- A. Jesus told him why He appeared to him on the road. (Acts 26:16-18).
 - 1. To have part in apostleship one had to be a witness. (Acts 1:22-26).
 - 2. To have seen the Lord (a witness) was one proof of apostleship. (1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8,9).
- B. Jesus told him to go into city to be told what he must do to be saved. (Acts 9:6; 22:10).
 - 1. He was not told to go into city to be told of apostolic mission -- told that on road.
 - 2. He was not given "sweet peace to his soul" on road. (Acts 9:9)
 - 3. He was to go into city to be told terms of salvation.
 - a. Terms of salvation not given directly from heaven. (Rom. 10:6-8;14-17).
 - b. Terms of salvation given though human agency. (cf. 2 Cor. 4:7; Mk.. 16:16; 2 Tim. 2:2).

II. He Was Not Saved *While Praying In Damascus.* (Acts 9:11-18; 22:16).

- A. If so, he was saved before being told what to do. (9:6)
- B. If so, he was saved before his sins were washed away. (Acts 22:16).
- C. If so, neither Jesus, Saul nor Ananias knew it.
 - 1. Jesus told Ananias to go to him.
 - 2. Saul was still without food - not rejoicing.
 - 3. Ananias went to him and told him to be baptized to wash away sins.

III. He Was Not Saved *Anywhere Before He Was Baptized.*

- A. He was told what the *must* do (Acts 9:6) - Not optional.
 - 1. Ananias was not to tell him to preach, witness, etc. -- had already been told.
 - 2. Ananias told him one *new* thing he must do. (Acts 22:16; 9:18).
- B. He was told to do same thing as others in N.T. were told with same results. (cf. Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4-6; Col. 2:11-13; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion:

- A. Saul was not saved on Damascus Road, while praying in Damascus, but in baptism.
- B. We can be saved as Paul was saved -- and be what he was -- a Christian (cf. Acts 26:28-29).