



AFTER EASTER #5:

Paul's Salvation...and The Most Important Thing!

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Text: Acts

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1. Saul Before Salvation:

Prestige & Pledged

(22:1-3; 26:4; 7:54-58;

8:1; 22:4-5)

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**22:1 “Brothers and fathers,
hear the defense that I
now make before you.”**

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² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

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3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.

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26:4 “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews.

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**7:54 Now when they heard
these things they were
enraged, and they ground
their teeth at him.**

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55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

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56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

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**57 But they cried out with a
loud voice and stopped
their ears and rushed
together at him.**

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**58 Then they cast him out of
the city and stoned him.**

**And the witnesses laid down
their garments at the feet of
a young man named Saul.**

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8:1 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

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**22:4 I persecuted this Way
to the death, binding and
delivering to prison both
men and women,**

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⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

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2. Saul During Salvation:

Conviction &

Confirmation

(26:12-15; 9:6-18)

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**26:12 “In this connection I
journeyed to Damascus with
the authority and
commission of the chief
priests.**

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***13 At midday, O king, I saw on
the way a light from heaven,
brighter than the sun, that
shone around me and those who
journeyed with me.***

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14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

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15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'

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9:6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

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8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

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***⁹ And for three days he was
without sight, and neither
ate nor drank.***

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**¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at
Damascus named Ananias.
The Lord said to him in a
vision, "Ananias." And he
said, "Here I am, Lord."**

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***11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise
and go to the street called Straight,
and at the house of Judas look for
a man of Tarsus named Saul, for
behold, he is praying,***

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**12 and he has seen in a vision
a man named Ananias come
in and lay his hands on him
so that he might regain his
sight.”**

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**13 But Ananias answered,
“Lord, I have heard from
many about this man, how
much evil he has done
to your saints at Jerusalem.**

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**14 And here he has
authority from the chief
priests to bind all who call
on your name.”**

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**15 But the Lord said to him,
“Go, for he is a chosen
instrument of mine to carry my
name before the Gentiles and
kings and the children of Israel.**

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**16 For I will show him how
much he must suffer for
the sake of my name.”**

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17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

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**18 And immediately
something like scales fell
from his eyes, and he
regained his sight. Then he
rose and was baptized;**

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**3. Paul After Salvation:
Immediate Obedience &
Commitment Forever!**

(9:18-29)

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**9:18 And immediately
something like scales fell
from his eyes, and he
regained his sight. Then he
rose and was baptized;**

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**19 and taking food, he was
strengthened. For some
days he was with the
disciples at Damascus.**

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***20 And immediately he
proclaimed Jesus in the
synagogues, saying, "He is
the Son of God."***

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21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?"

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**22 But Saul increased all the more
in strength, and confounded the
Jews who lived in Damascus by
proving that Jesus was the Christ.**

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***23 When many days had passed, the
Jews plotted to kill him,***

***24 but their plot became known to
Saul. They were watching the gates
day and night in order to kill him,***

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**25 but his disciples took him
by night and let him down
through an opening in the
wall, lowering him in a
basket.**

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26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

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27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

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**28 So he went in and out
among them at Jerusalem,
preaching boldly in the
name of the Lord.**

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**29 And he spoke and
disputed against the
Hellenists. But they were
seeking to kill him.**

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**The Most Important Thing:
The Gospel is FOR
EVERYONE!**

***(Not Just the 'Predestined'
Few 22:21; 26:16-20)***

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**22:21 And he said to
me, 'Go, for I will send
you far away to the
Gentiles.'"**

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26:16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,

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***17 delivering you from your
people and from the
Gentiles—to whom I am
sending you***

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18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

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**19 “Therefore, O King
Agrippa, I was not
disobedient to the heavenly
vision,**

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**20 but declared first to those in
Damascus, then in Jerusalem and
throughout all the region of Judea,
and also to the Gentiles, that they
should repent and turn to God,
performing deeds in keeping with
their repentance.**

I am
NOT ASHAMED
of the GOSPEL
for it is THE POWER of GOD
FOR the SALVATION of
everyone who BELIEVES

ROMANS 1:16