The Journey That Changed Paul's Life
Acts 9:1-3

Introduction:
A. Three years journey changed Paul’s life forever.
   1. Begins in Jerusalem - threatening disciples (v.1); Ends in Jerusalem - joining disciples (v. 28).
   2. From Jerusalem, Damascus, Arabia, Damascus, and back to Jerusalem.
B. Journey highlighted by contact and association with some important persons.

Discussion:
I. The High Priest In Jerusalem. (vv. 1,2)
   A. He was there as a misguided religious worker. (Cf. 1 Tim. 1:13)
      2. Zealous. (cf. Phil. 3:6)
      3. Legal. (v. 2; Acts 26:12; Phil. 3:6).
      4. Dangerous (v. 1; Acts 8:1; Gal. 1:13)
   B. He has many counterparts in church today — make havoc of church.
      1. In and out of the church.
      2. Like race car with souped up engine, but without steering or brakes.

II. Jesus Christ On The Damascus Road. (vv. 3-7).
   A. The three questions asked on the road.
      1. Jesus asks, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"
         a. To persecute disciples is to persecute Christ. (Mt. 25:40).
         b. To persecute church or "the Way" is persecute Christ. (Acts 22:4; Gal. 1:13).
      2. Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?", but it does not mean he was saved.
      3. Saul asked, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"
         a. The Lord's answer: "Arise and go into the city..."
         b. Not Lord's will to save people by direct appearance (cf. 2 Cor. 4:7; Rom. 10:6-8).
   B. The purpose of the appearance. (Acts 26:16; cf. 1 Cor 9:1)

III. Ananias In Damascus. (vv. 10-19).
   A. Ananias, not the Lord, told Saul what he must do to be saved. (Acts 22:16; cf. 9:11,18).
   B. Saul did not act saved until after Ananias spoke to him and he was baptized. (v. 9,19).

IV. The Disciples In Damascus and Jerusalem. (vv. 19-28).
   A. With the disciples twice at Damascus. (cf. Gal. 1:17).
   B. Returns to Jerusalem and joins disciples. (vv. 26-28).
      1. Not trying to become a disciple, already one. (cf. Mt. 28:18-20).
         b. Not automatically member of local church at Jerusalem.
      2. Fulfilling obligation to work with other disciples.
         a. To assemble together. (Heb. 10:25).
         b. To work and worship together. (cf. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20; Eph. 5:19)
      3. Not offended by disciples’ verifying his credentials.
         a. Disciples may "receive" or "reject" others. (Cf. Rom. 14:1; Tit. 3:10)
         b. Disciples do not need “No questions asked” fellowship.
            (1) May ask for and receive recommendations. (v. 27, 28); cf. Rm. 16:1-2).
            (2) Should be careful who ask — These asked Barnabas, not plotters (cf. v. 23)

Conclusion:
A. You can have your sins washed away just like Saul did.
B. You can work faithfully with other disciples, just like Paul did.