Paul: From Persecutor To Persecuted  
Acts 9:1-25

Introduction:  
A. The First mention of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 7:58).  
1. Became "Paul" (Roman name) rather than "Saul" (Jewish Name)  
2. Became most influential man other than Christ in N.T.  
B. Our text traces Paul through four important phases of his life: from persecutor to persecuted.

Discussion:  
I. Paul, the Persecutor (Verses 1-2).  
A. Whom did he persecute?  
1. “The Way” (v. 2)  
2. “Jesus” (vv. 4,5).  
4. “Men and women” (Acts 8:3; 9:2)  
B. How did he persecute?  
1. Officially but sinfully. (Acts 9:1,2; 26:11,12).  
2. Religiously but sinfully. (Acts 26:5; Phil. 3:6).  
   b. Kill, gamble, slander, bully, and defame etc. often in the name of religion.  
4. Ignorantly but sinfully. (1 Tim. 1:13).  
   a. His ignorance did not excuse - still chief sinner. (v. 15).  
   b. Had it been wilful he would not have been as receptive.

II. Paul, the Penitent. (Verses 6-19).  
A. He repented on the Damascus Road. (vs. 1,2,6)  
1. Jesus preached directly to him. (v.5).  
   a. Every sinner cannot expect such a call (Cf. Rom. 10:5,6,17). Cf. Other conversions in Acts.  
   b. Every preacher cannot expect a personal call. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2; Acts 8:1).  
B. He was saved in “the city”. (vs. 6).  
1. Jesus told him what he must do after his salvation.  
3. God choose to save through human instrumentality - did so in every case. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:21).

III. Paul, the Preacher. (Verses 20-22, Cf. 1 Tim. 2:7).  
A. He preached what his once persecuted - “Christ”.  
1. He now promoted “The way”, “The church”, etc.  
2. We see what his preaching Christ produced in rest of Acts. (Lydia, Jailer, Corinthians, etc.).  
B. He preached to please Christ and not men. (Gal. 1:8,9).

IV. Paul, the Persecuted. (Verses 23-25).  
A. By former brethren - the Jews. (v. 23; cf. 2 Cor. 11:24-25)  
B. By false brethren. (2 Cor. 11:26).  
1. Such persecution often from fear, envy, or resentment.  
2. Such persecution often either - verbal (reviled), physical (persecuted) or defamation. (1 Cor. 4:12,13).  
C. Accepted it with grace and gladness. (2 Cor. 12:9,10,15).

Conclusion:  
A. If Paul's life could be so turned around - anyone's can.  
B. But, we must be willing to do what Paul did:  
1. Obey the Lord.
2. Count all things for loss that we might gain Him.
3. Be willing to suffer for Christ.