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Paul Gave His Testimony

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PAUL GAVE HIS TESTIMONY

Acts. 22:4-16

- I. Whether he acted properly or not I'll let you judge.
 - A. Revival time in denominational church.
 1. Many came to altar call.
 2. So many the preacher wanted help.
 3. Rue Porter came.
 - B. Porter's assistance.
 1. "Do you want to be saved?"
 2. Quoted plan of salvation - it's more than prayer. It's more than folk voting on you. It's your obeying the gospel.
 - C. But I must give my testimony - how was I saved?
 1. Circumstances may vary.
 2. Where baptized may differ - as well as who preached.
 - D. But I want to tell Paul's - ask you to lay your story beside his.
 1. If in disagreement I'd change.
 2. If same, I'd share it with others & rejoice in my victory.
- II. As Paul Told his Conversion.
 - A. Persecutor of "This way" - binding & imprisonment. (Adversity clips)
 1. Did it with sanction of high priest.
 2. Also estate of the elders - (then religious men not the sole ans. on right & wrong, huh?)
 3. Went to Damascus, bring back bound, punish.

B. Nigh unto Damascus

1. About noon (we mark important hours!)
 2. Great light from Heaven.
 3. Fell to ground - heard a voice.
- v-7 "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"
4. Who art thou? Jesus!
 5. Folks saw light, afraid, heard not the voice.
 6. What shall I do?
- v-10 "Arise, & go into Damascus & there"

C. Damascus Entrance.

1. Blind - couldn't see for the glory of the light.
2. Led by the hand.
3. Not the entrance he imagined!

D. Enter Ananias

1. Paul's telling the story - due to the overtones he is not going to tell everything he knows about him.
 - a) Not described as fully every time
 - b) What I do know is good.
 - c) From this description it is not pinpointed he was a Christian - that comes elsewhere.
2. Came - Stood - Said
 - a) You would not here know of his earlier reluctance.
 - b) You will shortly see part of Paul's commission came thru the lips of this man.

II. The Preaching of Ananias

A. Brother Saul

1. Not implied he was a Christian.
2. Paul is trying to keep his Jewish audience - so essential that they see spiritual kinship.
3. Ananias earlier described as:
 - a) Devout man
 - b) According to the law
 - c) Good report of all the Jews which dwelt there.
 - d) Just showing there is no complicity or falseness via God in Paul doing what he did!
 - e) Shaw & Churchill

B. Receive Thy Sight

1. Instantly healed.
2. If after baptism, every blind person would be baptized for the remission of blindness!
 - a) Carl Henry
3. "I looked up upon him."
 - a) Wonder how he looked to Paul?
Clip on \$20 - You lose \$10.
 - b) Suppose he was grateful?

C. God of Our Fathers has chosen Thee - for -

1. Special work.
2. Chosen only here & Acts 26:16.
 - a) Wilson story.
3. Has idea of making, appointing.
4. Surely God has a specific work for each of us!

5. Four things:

a) "Know His Will"

(1) No joy in ignorance.

1 Tim. 1:13

(2) Greatest information that can come.

(3) Knowledge clip.

b) See the Just One

(1) Righteous one.

(2) No Sin nor guile.

I Pet. 2:22 "Who did no sin"

(3) Needs to be an apostle.

c) Hear the voice of his mouth.

(1) Communication.

(2) No higher communication.

(3) Never a man spake as this man.

(4) We must ever listen.

(5) Does the above summarize our life?

(6) Emerson Clip

6. Witness unto all men.

a) What greater work than to tell the story.

b) Paul appointed to preach.

c) Universally to all.

d) What's better than what seen & heard - personally know!

D. So Get With It! How?

1. Arise & be baptized.

a) Middle voice - get yourself baptized.

- b) You have a part - I've chosen (Lord) you must repond (Paul).
- c) No one can do it for us - must for ourselves.
- d) Don't be ashamed of baptism, preached by John.

Luke 3:3 "Baptism of rep. for the remission"
Mk. 1:4-5

Peter

Acts 2:30 "Repent"

Ananias

Acts 22:16

Paul

Gal. 3:26-27 "For we are all"

2. Wash away sins

a) What does that mean?

- (1) "This clause states the results of baptism in language derived from the nature of the ordinance & has the meaning of 'Submit to the rite in order to be forgiven'" - Coffman-Hackett
- (2) Vines GK Dict. "Get yourself baptized & sins washed away"
- (3) We have here a noble testimony of the value which was assigned to holy baptism by the pure apostolical church."
- (4) Not an outward sign of an inward grace.

- (5) "Forgiveness is possible sin can be removed" - Thomas
- (6) "Baptism is joined with faith and repentance and brings the assurance of forgiveness."

3. Call on Name of the Lord.

- a) Confess by calling name.
- b) Call on name in continued obedience after baptism.
- c) Jesus' name is in our baptism - Jew must confess.

4. Why tarry?

- a) Urgent
- b) Don't hesitate
- c) What reason can we rightfully give for delay?

Ps. 119:6 "I made haste and delayed not to keep thy commandment."

Northwest, St. Petersburg, FL - 3/8/88

Tuscumbia, AL - 3/29/88

Shiner Church, Williamsburg, KY - 4/13/88

So. Main Church - Weatherford, TX - 4/26/88

Crittenden Dr., Russellville, KY - 5/16/88

West Seventh, Columbia, TN - 6/7/88

Lafayette, TN - 6/14/88

Park City Church, Fayetteville, TN - 6/28/88

Somerville, TN - 7/28/88

Collegeside church, Cookeville, TN - 9/20/88

Even our good friend, Mr. Wilson, thinks it was the personal consideration that God had for him that caused him to be elected president. In writing to Mr McComb, his campaign manager, who had naturally requested certain favor from Mr. Wilson as a proper reward or consideration for what he had done for him Mr. Wilson replied with characteristic Presbyterian conviction, "I owe you nothing Remember that God ordained that I be the next president and neither you nor any other mortal could have prevented it."

ACC Lectures 1922-23- The Personal Element. p.163

Fore Renaker

Ralph Waldo Emerson had read philosophy, science, poetry and histories, but none of them had said anything about an effective and harmonious way of pushing a female calf into a barn. His son Edward grasped an ear, the father pushed diligently from behind, and together they tried to propel the animal. The heifer resisted with calm obstinacy. The pale face of the sage reddened and perspiring beads of sweat gathered on his high white forehead. And then an Irish servant girl came by. With an amused glance she thrust a finger into the animal's mouth, and the calf, seduced by this maternal imitation, at once followed her into the barn. Edward grinned, but Emerson was already absorbed in thought. After cleansing his hands of their hairy, bovine smell, he recorded this telling declaration in his journal: "I like people who can do things."

A MAN ASKED a friend to lend him 20 dollars. Without any hesitation the friend reached in his wallet and took out a ten dollar bill and gave it to him.

"Thanks," the other said, "but I asked for 20 dollars and this is only ten."

"That's right," the friend said. "This way we break even. You lose ten. I lose ten."

George Barnard Shaw once sent two tickets for the opening night of his new play to Winston Churchill, along with this note: "Bring a friend—if you have one."

friendship

Churchill returned the tickets with a note saying: "Sorry, but I'm engaged that evening. Please send tickets for a second night—if you have one."

As Carl Henry has said, "The current philosophy 'Be born again and God will put you in clover,' needs divine editing to read, 'Get right with God and he will show you how many excesses you can do without.'"

LIVING IN TWO WORLDS - Mike Cope - p. 51

...No man lives without jostling and being jostled; in all ways he has to elbow himself through the world, giving and receiving offense. — CARLYLE.

...Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant. — HORACE.

Excerpt from the Gold Medallion Book Awards film in reference to the knowledge explosion:

"Prior to 1500, Europe was producing books at a rate of 1000 titles per year. At this rate it would take a full century to produce 100,000 titles. By 1950, four and a half centuries later, the rate had accelerated so sharply that Europe was producing 120,000 titles a year. What once took a century now took only ten months. By 1960, a single decade later, a century's work could be completed in seven and a half months. By the mid-sixties, the out-put of books on a world scale approached the prodigious figure of 1000 titles per day. And by the late seventies, the rate reached an amazing 1700 titles produced per day.

At the rate at which knowledge is growing, by the time the child born today graduated from college, the amount of knowledge in the world will be four times as great. By the time that same child is fifty years old, it will be thirty-two times as great, and 97 percent of everything known in the world will have been learned since the time he was born."