

"WAS SAUL 'SAVED' ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

The conversion of Saul, who became the apostle Paul and wrote over half of our New Testament books (14) was **not** saved on the Damascus road, according to the Bible.

Note with me in Acts 9:1,2 tells of his hate for Jesus and his followers and was enroute to Damascus to bring persecution upon Christians.

Then in vs.3-9 the Lord confronts Saul on the road near Damascus and blinds him. He is in a repentful spirit as he **fasted and prayed for three days**. However he still was **not yet saved**.

Next in vs.10-19 the Lord appears to a disciple named Ananias & instructs him to go to Saul who now had gone from the Damascus road to the house of Judas (v.11). At first Ananias was fearful, due to Saul's reputation of persecuting Christians, but God reassured him that all would be okay. When he went to Saul, his blindness was removed and he was baptized.

As Paul was later telling of his conversion, as is recorded in Acts 22:1-16; and 26:9-18, he stated that he was told to "...get up & be baptized & wash away your sins..." (22:16). Thus, **my conclusion** is ---- Saul was not saved on the Damascus Road, because he had not been baptized. It is **in baptism that sins are removed** (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21). This is where one contacts the blood of Jesus (Romans 6:3), as we are baptized into His death. It was in His death that Jesus shed His blood. However, baptism is not valid unless preceded by faith and accompanied by repentance.

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