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**BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE GAIN TO ME,
THOSE THINGS I COUNTED LOSS FOR CHRIST.**

**SAUL BECOMES
PAUL**

VALOR OF THE PREACHER

**THAT I MAY KNOW CHRIST IN THE
POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AND
FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS.....**

JUNE 2009

THE WISDOM OF THOSE APPEARING FOOLISH

THE APOSTLE PAUL (FORMERLY SAUL) UNDERSTOOD THE RELIGION OF HIS JEWISH KINFOLK VERY WELL. HE RAVED ABOUT HIS JEWISH TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE. HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF BLAMELESS AS TO THE LAW. HE CALLED HIMSELF A HEBREW OF HEBREWS, AND A PHARISEE OF PHARISEES.

BUT WITH ALL THIS RELIGIOUS WISDOM HE WAS STILL VERY DISTANT FROM THE **LOVE OF GOD**. BUT THEN, WHILE ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS, PERSECUTING THE CHURCH, **CHRIST APPEARED** TO SAUL AS A BLINDING LIGHT. ON THAT ROAD, **SAUL CALLED THE RESURRECTED CHRIST, LORD. AND HE BECAME PAUL HIS SERVANT.** —SEE ACTS 9.

NOW WE SEE A DIFFERENT MAN, SAUL **BECOMES PAUL**. A JEW WAS CONVERTED TO **JESUS CHRIST**, AND HE SPENDS 14 YEARS OR MORE IN THE DESERT OF ARABIA **LEARNING THE GOSPEL DIRECTLY FROM CHRIST HIS LORD.**

THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD KNOW NOTHING OF THE PERSONAL CALLING OF THE PREACHER, NOR DO THEY UNDERSTAND THE HOURS HE SPENDS IN THE STUDY OF **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.**

THE PREACHER HAS A DIFFERENT VALUE SYSTEM FROM WHAT THE WORLD VALUES. LISTEN TO PAUL'S OWN WORDS:

**"BUT WHAT THINGS WERE GAIN TO ME,
THOSE THINGS I COUNTED LOST FOR**

CHRIST. THEREFORE I COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD: FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND DO COUNT THEM BUT DUNG, THAT I MAY WIN CHRIST." —READ PHIL 3:7-10

PAUL HELD THE KNOWLEDGE OF **CHRIST** AS SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER KNOWLEDGE HE HAD EVER KNOWN, EVEN HIS FORMER STUDY UNDER THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS. **CHRIST JESUS THE MESSIAH WAS SUPREME IN AUTHORITY OVER HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY.**

BEFORE HIS CONVERSION, THIS PAUL, WAS **SAUL OF TARSUS**. HE WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MEMBER OF JEWISH SOCIETY, AND FAIRLY WEALTHY, CARRYING A LOT OF RESPECT AND ENTRUSTED WITH MUCH RESPONSIBILITY.

ABOVE HIS JEWISH STATUS HE WAS ALSO A **ROMAN CITIZEN**, A PRIZED POSSESSION. PAUL WAS BOTH MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL.

SAUL STUDIED UNDER **GAMALIEL** AND MASTERED THE TORAH AND THE ENTIRE JEWISH LAW. SEE ACTS 2:3.

NOW WHO WOULD COUNT ALL OF THIS AS LOSS, FOR THE SAKE OF KNOWING **JESUS CHRIST, THE MESSIAH** DESPISED BY ROMAN RULERS AND JEWISH RELIGIOUS RULERS AS WELL?

"AND BE FOUND IN HIM, NOT HAVING MY OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH THE LAW, BUT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH COMES BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF GOD BY FAITH.

THE PROBLEM WITH TRYING TO BE RIGHT BY LAW, IS THAT IF YOU BREAK **ONE PART OF THE LAW**, YOU'VE BROKEN ALL OF IT. THAT DISQUALIFIES ONE FROM RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE A PERFECT HOLY GOD. **SO WE CAN SEE HOW WISE PAUL WAS TO PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IN CHRIST.**

"THAT I MAY KNOW HIM IN THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH. —USING KJV BIBLE.

AND YES, PAUL DID COME TO KNOW **THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION** IN MANY NEAR DEATH SITUATIONS HE FACED AS A PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES. READ 2 COR 11

ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY OF STONING, WHEN PAUL WAS DRAGGED OUT OF THE CITY LIKE A DEAD CARCASS, THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST STOOD AROUND HIM, **PAUL ROSE UP AND RETURNED TO THE CITY.** AND THE VERY NEXT DAY, PAUL DEPARTED WITH BARNABAS TO THE CITY OF DERBY **TO PREACH THE CHRIST THERE.** —READ ACTS 14