

Sequim Community Church
Heart to Heart Women’s Bible Study
March 12, 2024 Sharyn Fuller - Teaching Leader
 LESSON SIX - HOLY SPIRIT SERIES: “Transformation of Paul”

1. Is there a fact about Saul’s background that was new or interesting to you?

2. In the table below, what did you learn about Saul (from the verses) after his encounter with the risen Christ?

Before Christ	After Christ	Verses said
A Pharisee, well educated in Mosaic Law and its observance, studied under Gamaliel	Wrote 13 epistles which were saved as books of the New Testament	-----
Had knowledge of God but did not know Him	Phil 3:8-11	
Self-righteous, boastful	2 Cor 10:17-18 2 Cor 11:30 2 Cor 12:5-6	
Proud of Roman citizenship, being a “Hebrew of Hebrews	Ephesians 3:1-8 Phil 3:7-9 1 Cor 15:9	

<p>Zealous for the Mosaic Law, persecuted the church and tried to destroy it</p>	<p>Gal 1:15-16 Eph 3:7-8 Rom 15:15-17 2 Cor 11:24-27 Phil 1:12-14,20</p>	
<p>Worst sinner, murder, unbelief, violence</p>	<p>1 Tim 1:13-17</p>	
<p>Living for self, confident in flesh, selfish, slave to sin</p>	<p>Romans 8:5-7, 12 Romans 7:8, 11, 14, 17-18 Phil 4:11-13</p>	

There were some advantages to Paul because he was a Pharisee:

He had profound knowledge of the Old Testament and prophecy.

He had the tradition of relying on the written word.

He would have had to have a habit of self-examination for compliance with the Law.

He would have relied on God’s Word as the structure for his life and days.

However, because of being a Pharisee, he had weak points that needed transformation.

His pride had to be changed to humility

His self-righteousness needed to become trust in Jesus' righteousness

His lack of love for God's people had to be converted to God's love

His resistance to hearing Jesus' teachings had to be changed to believing His teachings

His leadership abilities had to be submitted to Christ, through the Holy Spirit.

3. Do any of the verses in the table above challenge you? How?

Some major Christian doctrines are written about in Paul's epistles. They are summarized here.

GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense. In Romans 5:1-2, Paul states "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." Arthur Pinnock says that grace is part of the very nature of the Trinity; God did not have to decide to give grace because He is full of grace.

4. How can Christians show grace to one another?

REDEMPTION: In Galatians 3:13-14, Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole. He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. And in 1 Timothy 2:5-6, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."

JUSTIFICATION: From the New Bible Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Paul's writings:

God's act of remitting the sins of guilty people, and accounting them righteous, freely, by His grace, through faith in Christ, on the ground, not of their own works, but of the representative law-keeping and redemptive blood-shedding of the Lord Jesus Christ on their behalf. (Pardoned by God, though guilty, as if he/she had never sinned, whether Jew or Gentile).

FAITH: A gift from God out of His great love. Eph 2:8-9, For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. And from Romans 1:17: For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

From the New Bible Dictionary, Paul’s writings: “faith is the attitude whereby a person abandons all reliance on their own efforts to obtain salvation,” whether deeds of piety, of ethical goodness or anything else. It is the attitude of complete trust in Christ, of reliance on Him alone for all that salvation means.

5. Write out a short prayer of thanksgiving to God for his mercy in giving us faith in Christ, ransoming us with His blood, so we can be justified, forgiven and reconciled with God.

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