

Recap of 7/25/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 19:1-19):

1. Saul's (Paul's) conversion was so important to the early church that Luke records it three times in Acts, chapters 9, 22, & 26, the latter two in Paul own words.
2. Paul was the writer of 13 epistles, 24-40 years old at this time, a Pharisee, zealous for the Law, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, a Roman citizen by birth, had Jewish, Greek & Roman background, was trained in theology under Gamaliel (an outstanding, honored rabbi of the day), was theologically brilliant, and a leader.
3. Saul (Paul), the persecutor of the church, encounters Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus and as a result becomes a follower of Jesus the One he was persecuting. Saul's self-confident independence is replaced by "child-like dependence."
4. As a result of his encounter with the living Christ: "[Paul had] a burning desire to know Christ more intimately...[an] intense commitment to take the Gospel to the world. What enabled him to maintain such spiritual fervor? He had been captured by the love of Christ. Jesus was real to Paul. He was not just a theological idea or a religious concept. Christ saved him and gave him a mission. Paul's life was consumed with the love of Jesus. What do you get passionate about?" (365 Life Lessons from Bible People)
5. "There is all of Christianity in what the Risen Christ said to Paul, 'Go into the city, and you will be told what to do.' Up to this moment Paul had been doing what **he** like, what **he** thought best, what **his** will dictated. From this time forward he would be told what to do. The Christian is a man who has ceased to do what he wants to do and who has begun to do what Christ wants him to do." (Barclay)
6. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19,20 (in the context of sexual immorality "You are not your own; you were bought at a price." It would be good us to remember that in all areas of our lives,
7. Saul is accepted as a fellow believer by Ananias who was sent by God to restore his sight and to announce the future work he would do.