
3. The Chief of Sinners

Acts 8:1-4; Acts 9:1-9 & 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Persecution can accomplish God's Plans

1. The Great Commission was to spread the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth. Read the following passages and describe the activities of the early group of believers.

Acts 2:44-47

Acts 4:32

2. The stoning of Stephen and the persecution of Saul was relentless and created havoc on the early group of followers. What was their response to this persecution in Acts 8:3-4?

Why was Saul Converted?

3. Read Acts 9:1-2 and Philippians 3:4-6 and discuss Saul's views of himself and his commitment to the persecution of the disciples of the Lord. Was Saul blameless under the law?
4. Read Philippians 3:9 - why does Saul say that his righteousness comes from God rather than from the Law?
5. Read 1 Timothy 1:16 – Why does Saul say that God converted Him?
6. In Romans 3:25-26 the writer explains that God passed over former sins to show us his divine forbearance (patience). God wanted to show his righteousness in the present time. Does God judge all sin? Does “passing over” former sin mean that God ignores sins?
7. Read 1 Peter 3:9 and explain why God passed over sins.