

## WHO ARE YOU?

### TEXT:

***Acts 9:5: And he [Saul] said, Who art Thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.***

This question Saul asks implies great ignorance. This changed rapidly in later years when he said, as recorded in **1 Corinthians 2:2:**

***“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”***



Between these two extremes, we wish to minister today.

How did Paul [previously Saul] get to know Jesus so well? What value or importance do we affix to knowing Him?

As Paul went from one who persecuted the church to one determined to know Christ, he learned about the scars and wounds of Jesus' sacrifice, as well as self-sacrifice. Jesus is showing God's love for a lost world. The new creation by which man is restored to God's image cost God infinitely more than the old creation of all the worlds. His Word created worlds; but it took His Blood to save sinners.

### **The Purpose of this Vision is given. There are eight things:**

#### **1. To make thee a minister.**

We go where He sends us, do what He commands, say what He wishes, and be what He wants us to be. His Will is our guideline. His glory is our joy.

Jesus is leading the battle against sin and darkness, and He expects us to take part. He opens doors and expects us to enter.

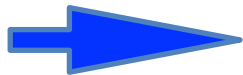
#### **2. To make thee a witness . . . of these things.**

While we rejoice in these things, don't forget those things are ours, too, and more glorious. John Bunyan said, "As my physical discomforts increase, my spiritual comfort and joys multiply."

### 3. Delivering thee from the people and nations to whom I now send thee.

To give him more complete liberty in the spirit, and power in service, The Lord had to separate Paul for awhile, so close he was living to the people and not close enough to the Lord.

Paul, a Jew, was bound by Jewish prejudice. He loved his kin. He had been honored to a position in the Sanhedrin, shared their hatred to Christianity, and joined a vigorous attempt to destroy it. Now Jesus severs him from their spirit of hate and the desire for their favor.



**Jesus' salvation is for all people, regardless of color or language.**

### 4. To open blind eyes.



We have pity and compassion toward the blind. We should have it on the spiritually blind, as well. Soul blindness is more pitiful.

### 5. To turn thee from darkness to light.

Light is no good without sight.

### 6. To turn from power of satan to God.

There are many substitutes for the real: false Christ, false churches, false prophets, false cross, counterfeit light.

***John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.***

### 7. That thou may receive forgiveness of sins.

### 8. Inheritance among the sanctified riches in Christ is inheritance incorruptible.

*I forgive you!*

***1 Peter 1:3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead;***



**Wealth, honor, and power in Christ are offered to those who become His children. Turning from sin is reformation. We must turn to Christ in salvation. To get men to repent, we must break their hearts with God's love, and the only way to receive sight is to turn to Jesus of Calvary.**

**Akron Shalom Bible Learning Center**

**[www.AkronShalomMinistries.org](http://www.AkronShalomMinistries.org)**