

## The Purpose of Christ appearing to Saul Acts 26:16

### Introduction:

1. Saul's conversion is first stated in Acts 9.
2. Then repeated in Acts 22, and now in Acts 26.
3. "I have appeared unto thee for this purpose" (Acts 26:16):

### A. The reason Christ appeared to Saul stated in specific terms:

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

- a. Properly, an under rower, a subordinate rower. (A word used in relation to a superior)
- b. Anyone who serves with his hands; a servant; in the N.T.
- c. It is used of the officers and attendants of magistrates as – of the officer who executes penalties, Matthew 5:25; of the attendants of a king, of the **servants** or officers of the Sanhedrin, **Matthew 26:58**.
- d. It is used of anyone ministering or rendering service, Acts 13:5. (At Salamis, John was their minister, or helper.)
- e. It is used of anyone who aids another in any work; an assistant: of a preacher of the gospel as in our text.

#### **I Corinthians 4:1**

- f. So, the word came to mean anyone acting under another's direction. Christians work under the direction of Christ. (Matthew 5:16; Mark 16:15; I Corinthians 15:58)

#### 2. **To make him a witness.**

- a. This word means an eyewitness of Jesus Christ. (**I Cor. 9:1; Acts 1:21,22**)
- b. We use the word wrongly when we talk about being witnesses today.
- c. In the text:
  - 1). To make you a witness of these things which you have seen.
  - 2). And of those things in the which I will appear to you.
- d. So, the idea is that, in the absence of the written word, Paul will be an eyewitness of the resurrection of Christ, and on this basis preach the gospel to the people.

#### 3. **To deliver him from the people.**

- a. The people would be the Jews.
- b. **Acts 9:15**
- c. One only has to read a passage like **II Corinthians 11:23-28**, to see the deliverance of the Lord for Paul.

#### 4. **To deliver him from the Gentiles.**

- a. Wherever the providence of God might send him, God would deliver him.
- b. Paul came in contact with many Gentiles because he mainly worked with them.

#### 5. **To send him to the Gentiles.**

- a. He was to preach the same gospel to the Gentiles that he preached to the Jews. Read **Acts 9:15** again.
- b. **Ephesians 3:3-6**

**6. To open their eyes.**

- a. Paul is to be the instrument of informing their understanding of the things of God.
- b. The Jews had closed their eyes to the truth; many of the Gentiles had never heard.

**Matthew 23:37**

**c. Matthew 13:15**

- e. So this means to, "cause them to see" or "to remove their blindness."

**7. To turn men from darkness to light.**

**b. II Corinthians 4:4**

**c. Ephesians 4:18**

- d. In practical terms Paul wants the Gentiles to "turn from heathenism and superstition to the knowledge and worship of the true God."

**e. Colossians 1:13.**

**8. To turn men from the power of Satan to God.**

- a. This means "to cause them to come away from being under Satan's power and to enter into being under God's power" or "to cause them to leave the place where Satan rules and to come to the place where God rules."

**b. II Corinthians 11:14-15**

**c. II Thessalonians 2:9-12**

**9. To enable them to have the forgiveness of sins.**

- a. Today, everyone can have forgiveness of sins. (**Mark 16:15,16**; Acts 2:38)
- b. However, they can never have forgiveness, if they remain in ignorance.

**10. To enable them to have an inheritance among those who are sanctified.**

**a. Ephesians 1:11**

**b. Ephesians 1:18**