

Acts
The Power of the Resurrected Christ
Acts 9:1-31

We tend to have a cynical view of humanity when it comes to change. Experience informs much of our view. While different states measure recidivism rates differently, it is estimated that nationally, 43% of formerly incarcerated prisoners are rearrested within a year and 82% within ten years. It leads to conclusions such as, once a thief always a thief, once a pedophile always a pedophile, once a serial killer always a serial killer, once a persecutor of Christians always a persecutor of Christians.

1. Christ confronts our hostility toward Him.

2. Christ converts even the hardest of hearts.

3. Christ comforts those who trust in Him.

If Saul's conversion teaches us nothing else, it teaches us that no one is beyond the reach of the gospel of God, and that no one is beyond the change that comes from trusting in the power of the resurrected Christ. There is no better day to start living a resurrected life than today, the day we celebrate a resurrected Savior. Let's trust in His resurrection power; it changed Saul forever. It can change you, because Christ makes all things new.

For further consideration

Do you expect the unexpected from God? What difference does that make or would that make in your life or the way you see and treat other people? How should God's sovereign power in converting people encourage us in evangelism efforts as we share our story and the story of Jesus with others? What can you learn and apply to yourself from the response of Ananias in this passage? Take a moment to meditate on God's grace in salvation. Think about what that means not only for your salvation, but also for the salvation of the people around you, especially those you might think are living beyond the grace of God. How can Barnabas' small part in this story inspire us in our efforts to be a welcoming church?