

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 26:13-20**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (12-26-93).
- C. We think of the blind not being able to see nor the deaf hear, yet sometimes we have to lose some senses to come to our senses.
 - 1. The young Jew from Tarsus, Saul, was very zealous to maintain the traditions of the Pharisees. He persecuted Xians, putting them in prison and to death (Ac. 26:9-11; 1Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13).
 - 2. Even while persecuting the church, Saul had a "good conscious" (23:1).
- D. Yet it was not until he was blinded that he saw the truth.
 - 1. We like to hear pleasant things.
 - a. If we go to the doctor we want to hear that we are in good health.
 - b. But would you want a doctor who discovered that you had a life-threatening condition but would not tell you because it might make you "feel" bad?
 - 2. Sin will kill us and we cannot be brought to repentance by "feeling good about ourselves" while we are neglectful of God's will (2Cor. 7:9-10).
 - 3. When blinded so that he could not "see" the things of the world, he turned to God: "What will **you** have me do, Lord?"

I. THE BLIND SAUL SAW THAT HE WAS IGNORANT, THOUGH EDUCATED.

- A. He had been educated in Jerusalem "at the feet of Gamaliel" (22:3).
 - 1. Gamaliel was the most respected teacher of that day.
 - 2. His writings show knowledge of the Scriptures, and even of Grecian poets/philosophers.
- B. He had been very zealous in the Law and traditions of the Jewish scholars, especially the Pharisees (22:4-5).
- C. He had advanced in the Jews' religion beyond his contemporaries (Gal. 1:14).
- D. Yet, he seemed ignorant of how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the X (1Tim 1:13).
- E. Let us not be educated in all the wrong things!

II. PAUL SAW THAT HIS TEACHER WAS WRONG.

- A. He had the most respected teacher of his day.
 - 1. Gamaliel was reasonable in his advice about preaching X (Ac. 5:38-39).
 - 2. It is natural to love and appreciate one's teachers.
- B. Paul learned to turn from the teacher he loved.
- C. He obeyed the one he considered a blasphemer and hated.
- D. He learned that one cannot put trust in flesh and blood but to focus more on God's word. We also must focus more on God's word rather than what men teach from tradition.
- E. Good teachers are very important, but our true "rabbi" is X (Mt. 23:8).

III. WHEN BLINDED, HE SAW THAT HE WAS A SINNER.

- A. He felt justified as a Jew (1Tim. 1:15).
 - 1. He had a clear conscience (23:1).
 - 2. He was blameless toward the Law (Phil. 3:5-6).
- B. He honestly thought he should persecute Jesus (26:9).
- C. When Jesus appeared to him and spoke w/him, he realized that he was wrong.
 - 1. He realized that he had to do something differently (22:10).
 - 2. While waiting for the instructions of what he was to do, he did what he thought was appropriate: he fasted and prayed.

3. Ananias came and told him what he was to do (22:16).
- D. The pleasures and things of the world can blind us to the spiritual truth we need to be saved.

IV. PAUL SAW THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE THE JEWISH TRADITIONS TO ACCEPT X.

- A. He gave up the recognition and praise of the Jewish leaders to accept X (Gal. 1:10; Phil. 3:6-11).
- B. Jesus tells us to count the cost of discipleship.
 1. We may have to give up better jobs to serve X.
 2. We may lose position and honor.
 3. Some lose their family who disown them.
- C. Paul sums up the benefits in 2Cor. 4:16-18.
- D. We may have to do some very serious changing (life, family, etc.) to be faithful to X.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. It is easy to become blind to what we do not want to see.
- B. Sometimes we can see only when blinded to what we normally see.
- C. Paul "saw" more when blind than he had when he had his sight.
- D. Can you see the things that Paul saw?
- E. What are you doing about it?
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.