



**BETTER**

Acts 9:20–31 (NKJV)

**Becoming Better Is A  
Threat To The Enemy**

## **Acts 9:20–25** (NKJV)

20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?”

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

# He Is Preaching The Son Of God!

## **Acts 9:20** (NKJV)

Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

# He Is Preaching The Son Of God!

- Saul immediately began to proclaim the Christ that he had persecuted, declaring boldly that Jesus is the Son of God.
- This is the only place in Acts that you find this title, but Paul used it in his epistles at least fifteen times.
- It was a major emphasis in his ministry.

# Romans 1:1–6 (NKJV)

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to  
be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God  
2 which He promised before through His  
prophets in the Holy Scriptures,  
3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who was born of the seed of David according to  
the flesh,  
4 and declared to be the Son of God with power  
according to the Spirit of holiness, by the  
resurrection from the dead.

5 Through Him we have received grace and  
apostleship for obedience to the faith among  
all nations for His name,  
6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus  
Christ;

# Our Message Has To Be Jesus!

## **Galatians 1:8–9** (NKJV)

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.



# Saul's Life Was Amazing To Others

## **Acts 9:21–22** (NKJV)

21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?”

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

# Amazement

**1839. ἐξίστημι *exístēmi*** - To remove out of a place or state. In the NT applied only to the mind, meaning to be out of one's mind, to be amazed, astounded.

Spiros Zodhiates, [\*The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament\*](#)  
(Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

- The dramatic change in Saul's life was a source of wonder to the Jews at Damascus.
- Every new convert's witness for Christ ought to begin right where he is, so Saul began his ministry first in Damascus.
- Becoming a better person may not convince all who have been hurt by you in the past right away.

**1743. ἐνδυναμόω *endunamóō*; - to strengthen.**  
Found only in biblical and ecclesiastical Gr.  
meaning to make strong, vigorous, to  
strengthen. Used in the pass., to be  
strengthened, become strong.

Spiros Zodhiates, [\*The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament\*](#)  
(Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

## **Romans 4:19–21** (NKJV)

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

- People should see us get stronger in our faith!

## **1 Corinthians 14:20** (NKJV)

Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

- As we grow in our faith we should get stronger.

# Confounded The Jews

**4797 συγχέω, συγχύνω [sugcheo, sugchuno /soong-kheh-o/] v. 1 to pour together, commingle. 2 to disturb the mind of one, to stir up to tumult or outbreak. 3 to confound or bewilder.**

James Strong, [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon \(Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995\).](#)

# Confounded The Jews

- The Christians state this man use to be on their team, and the orthodox Jews state he is now on their team. Everyone wanted to know what was going on with Saul.
- Can we trust Him on what the Christians are asking, and the orthodox Jews are saying don't trust him!



# He Spent Time Proving Jesus Is The Christ

**Acts 9:22** (NKJV)

But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

# He Spent Time Proving Jesus Is The Christ

- In the Greek, the verb prove actually means to bring together many parts from which a person is able to draw a conclusion.
- Paul brings together numerous Old Testament passages and proves the teaching that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah.

# Giving Ones Life To Christ Will Bring Spiritual Warfare In Your Life.

## **Acts 9:23-24** (NKJV)

23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

- When Saul returned to Damascus, he began his witness afresh, and the Jews sought to silence him.
- Now he would discover what it meant to be the hunted instead of the hunter!
- This was but the beginning of the “great things” he would suffer for the name of Christ *(Acts 9:16)*.

- How humiliating it must have been for Saul to be led into Damascus as a blind man and then smuggled out like a common criminal.

## **2 Corinthians 11:32–33** (NKJV)

32 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

33 but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

Throughout his life, the great apostle was hated, hunted, and plotted against by both Jews and Gentiles.

## 2 Corinthians 11:24–28 (NKJV)

24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 in journeys often, in **perils** of waters, in **perils** of robbers, in **perils** of my own countrymen, in **perils** of the Gentiles, in **perils** in the city, in **perils** in the wilderness, in **perils** in the sea, in **perils** among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often,  
in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and  
nakedness—

28 besides the other things, what comes upon  
me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.



**Peril - 2794. κίνδυνος *kíndunos* - to move.**  
Danger, peril.

## Romans 8:35–37 (NKJV)

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or **peril**, or sword?

36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

***We will have to face some dangerous moments because of our enemy!***

**As you read the Book of Acts, you see how the opposition and persecution increase, until the apostle ends up a prisoner in Rome.**

- He counted it a privilege to suffer for the sake of Christ, and so should we.

## **2 Timothy 3:10–12** (NKJV)

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**God will always have  
those who will try to  
protect your ministry.**

## **Acts 9:25** (NKJV)

Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

- Paul's converts, however, protect him and help him escape.
- In an overhanging house built on the city wall, typical in oriental cities, they put Paul into a basket and lower it, through a window, to ground level outside the city (*2 Cor. 11:33; Josh. 2:15*).

- This takes place under cover of darkness.
- Paul's mission efforts have not been in vain, because he has gained a number of converts (*disciples, in Greek*).
- Paul's time in Damascus has come to an end and he returns to Jerusalem.

## **Psalm 32:7** (NKJV)

You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

**The Better We Become,  
The More We Become A  
Threat To The Enemy.**

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