

CHAPTER 8

AND Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him.

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

4. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and

many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14. Now when the apostles which

were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art

in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

26. And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both

Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

CHAPTER 9

AND Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he 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.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus.

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10 ¶ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.

11 And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this

man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

21 But all that heard *him* were amazed, and said; Is not this he

that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

23 ¶ And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

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

26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him, and brought *him* to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and dis-

puted against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

30 *Which* when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

32 ¶ And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all *quarters*, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

36 ¶ Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those

days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid *her* in an upper chamber.

38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them.

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning *him* to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her *his* hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

43 And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 8 begins with the Gospel in action. Chapters 8—12 describe the period of transition during which several things take place: The center of activity moves from Jerusalem to Antioch; the message goes from the Jews to the Samaritans and then to the Gentiles; Peter's kingdom ministry comes to a close and Paul takes his place; and, the Gospel of the kingdom is replaced by the Gospel of the grace of God.

If the Ethiopian eunuch was of the black race (and many believe he was), then in chapters 8—10 we have presented to us three remarkable conversions paralleling the three sons of Noah in Genesis 10:1. The Ethiopian would come from Ham; Paul, a Jew, from Shem; and Cornelius, a Gentile, from Japheth. Thus, we have pictured the Gospel going to all mankind.

There are several lessons that can be learned from chapter 8. One is that persecution is often an opportunity for service. The blood of the martyrs is still the seed of the church. Secondly, we find that Satan opposes the Word of God through persecution from without and false professions from within. Today, as always, the only way to defeat Satan is through obedience to the Word of God.

A very interesting point concerning soul-winning is also contained in chapter 8. Philip was concerned

about one soul. We know that in the first part of this chapter there were many; but Philip was faithful in leading the one to Christ when he explained the Gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch. What a lesson for us today! True, we as preachers and teachers can preach to hundreds and thousands, but that one lonely soul is important to Christ. Philip set forth an example that we all should follow.

Saul was the chief persecutor of the Christians. Because of these persecutions, the first missionaries were born. Because of the fear of persecution, the apostles were scattered abroad and went everywhere preaching the Word. The message was the same as it had been, but now it was being preached to a different group of people. That message was, "Repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

In chapter 9 we see the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. This man, who had been a hater of all Christians, was confronted on the road to Damascus by a light from heaven and the voice of Jesus; and there he repented of his sin and received Christ as his personal Saviour.

Paul's conversion was very miraculous and dramatic. The conversion of the thief on the cross was a simple request by the thief and not so dramatic. It is good to observe this contrast, because I have seen people come weeping, running, and very emotional

to receive Christ as Saviour; others come very calmly, and the same miraculous new birth transpires in both lives.

The point I am making is simply that there is no certain physical condition a person must be in to come to Christ; the important thing is that they come, believe, and receive Him.

After his conversion, Paul becomes what I consider to be the greatest of all Christians, and was later to be the human instrument through whom the Gospel would be preached to the Gentiles. From a murderer and hater of Christians, to one of God's choice preachers, this change will be continually noticed throughout our future readings.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 37: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1963

ERNEST M. WADSWORTH DIED.

He was director of the Great Commission Prayer League for a quarter of a century, and tried to stir the church to pray for revival. Oh, how we need to pray

for revival today—the kind of revival they had in Scotland, when on every street corner they said, "John Knox is coming! Knox is coming! Knox is coming!" Oh, for the revivals they had in America under Charles G. Finney, the Fulton Street prayer meetings, Dwight Moody, Jonathan Edwards, and others. With the inspired writer, let us ask God to revive His work in the midst of the years. Pray for revival.

1893

GRACE RAMONT WAS BORN.

Here was an editor of a magazine for hymn lovers and a great authority on hymns and hymn writers. Let us thank God for hymn writers and those who promote the singing of good Gospel hymns.

1765

ROBERT FULTON WAS BORN IN LITTLE BRITAIN, PENNSYLVANIA.

He was the inventor of the steam boat. Let us thank God today for this means of transportation that has become so much a way of our lives.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1960

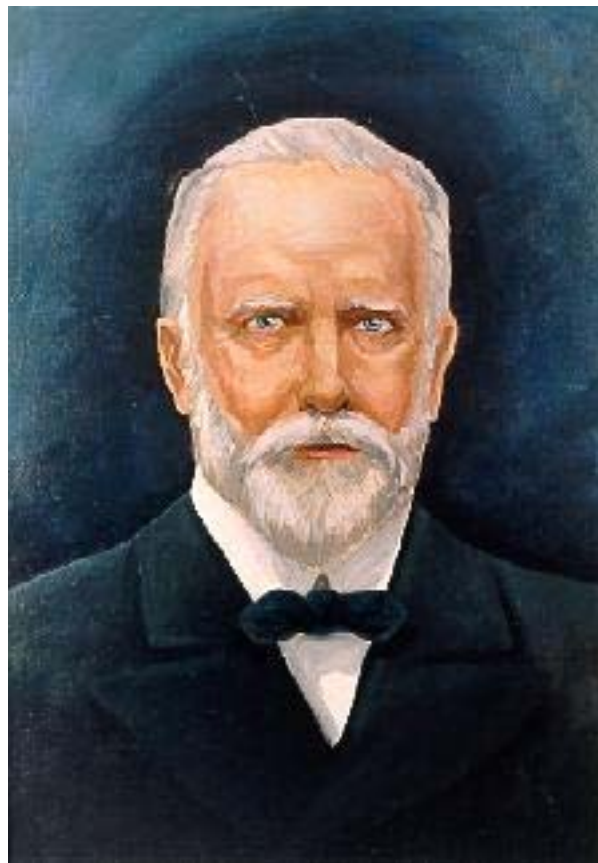
U.S. marshals and parents escorted four black girls to two New Orleans schools.

A Christian Life . . .

REUBEN ARCHER TORREY (1856-1920)

Congregationalist minister. R.A. Torrey was educated at Yale University and Leipzig and Erlangen Universities in Germany. In 1889 he was called to Chicago to supervise the Moody Bible Institute and served as pastor of the Moody Memorial Church until 1908. He toured the world, conducting evangelistic campaigns with song leader Charles Alexander, holding meetings in Tasmania, Australia, China, Japan, India, Canada, Britain, Germany, and the United States.

Torrey served as dean of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (Biola) from 1912 to 1924, and he was also pastor of the Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles. He was the author of more than 40 books on salvation, soul-winning, and theology.



Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:

Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.

D. THE ERROR OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HEAVEN

(Assignment 37)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

() Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

() Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

() Proverbs 30:12

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

() Matthew 7:13

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

() Matthew 7:14

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.