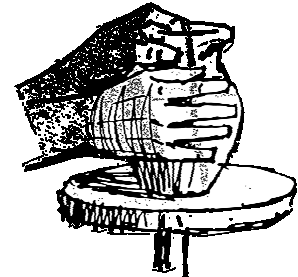


His Workmanship Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

Was Saul Saved on the Road to Damascus? by Heath Rogers

Most people believe and teach that Saul was saved on the road to Damascus. Where does this belief come from? It does not come from the Bible account of Saul's conversion (found in Acts chapters 9, 22, and 26). No, this belief is the consequence of the false doctrine of "salvation by faith only." Teachers deceived by this doctrine reason that, since Saul saw the Lord on the road, he then believed in Jesus and "must have been" saved at that moment. This false idea has to be brought to the verses and read into the verses. But if we will simply read the account of Saul's conversion in the Scriptures, we will find no evidence of Saul's being saved on the road to Damascus. Consider the following:

1. He did not rejoice. "And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank," Acts 9:9. Saul did not leave the road or the presence of the Lord rejoicing. He left the Lord in penitent sorrow. So great was his sorrow that he could not eat or drink. Others rejoiced when they were saved, see Acts 2:41; 8:8, 39; 16:34. If Saul was saved on the road, he was the most miserable saved man described in the book of Acts.

2. He had no peace. There is no doubt of Saul's faith and sorrow, yet

he had no peace. This is significant, because Saul himself (as Paul) later wrote, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Rm 5:1. Saul had no peace with God when he entered Damascus. He was still in the sorrow and agony of his guilt and condemnation.

3. Saul was still in his sins. When Ananias came to Saul in Damascus, he said unto him, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord," Acts 22:16. What purpose does baptism serve? According to Ananias, Saul needed to be baptized to have his sins washed away. When Ananias came to Saul in Damascus, Saul still had his sins. If Saul was saved on the road, then someone needs to explain to us how he could have been saved from his sins while still having his sins.

4. Saul was saved by calling on the name of the Lord. The promise found in the Bible is "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved," Acts 2:21 (Joel 2:32), Romans 10:13-14. [Those who call on the name of the Lord are God's people who worship Him: Gen 4:26; 12:8; 13:4; 21:33; 26:25; 1 Kg 18:24; 1 Chr 16:8; Is 12:4; Ps 99:6; 105:1; 116:4, 13, 17; Lam

3:55; Zeph 3:9; Zech 13:9; 1 Cor 1:2.] Ananias told Saul to stop waiting, arise, and be baptized, calling on the name of the Lord. He said this when he came to him in Damascus, which means Saul had yet to call on the Lord (humbly submit to Him). According to the Bible, Saul could not have been saved on the road because he had not yet called on the name of the Lord.

What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? Some have the idea that it means to pray unto God to save them. According to Ananias, it means to be baptized for the remission of sins, Acts 22:16. To call on the name of the Lord means to receive salvation on His terms, not on our own terms. It means to receive salvation by meeting the conditions set forth by the Lord. It means to put our trust in God and in His promises to save us.

5. Saul was sent to Damascus to be told what he must do. "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do,'" Acts 9:6. The false teachers might object by saying, "In the city, Saul was told to be a witness to the Gentiles." No, the Lord told him this when He appeared
continued on p. 3, center column

Three Commitments Christians Should Make, by Jimmy Dean

"Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD. Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass," Psalm 37:4-5.

WHAT ARE YOU COMMITTED TO? Commitment makes demands on us. To commit means, "1. to entrust (*for some of us, it's a hard decision to trust*), to appoint, to put in a place of safekeeping (*maybe put it away or lock it up?*), to put [someone else] in charge (*ouch! I want to be in charge of my life*); to refer, delegate to someone else; 2. to obligate, bind, pledge, commend, or assign to some particular course or use (*obligation and being bound sound too restrictive*); 3. to empower, authorize, permit, carry into action deliberately." A commitment is "a promise or pledge to do something in the future; an obligation; a duty." Thus, commitment is hard. It involves honesty and keeping our word, Jn 5:22; it involves trust, faith, and faithfulness, see Joseph, Gen 39:8, 22; it involves duty and obligation and binding ourselves to promises and the truth. It involves keeping safe, cf. 1 Kg 14:27; 2 Chr 34:16. God entrusted His revelation to men, and He commits His word to us; see Rm 3:1-2; 2 Cor 5:19; Gal 2:7; 1 Tim 1: 11, 18-19; 6:20; 2 Tim 1:12, 14; 2:2; Tit 1:3.

Commitment involves trust, faithfulness, honesty, duty, obligation, and binding ourselves to another.

There are close to a million Christians in America and yet, why are we not making more of a moral and spiritual impact? Why is it that on Sunday morning hundreds of church buildings have empty pews? Why do so many churches have just a few at service on Wednesday and Sunday nights? God knows if and why we can't assemble with our brethren. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God, and yet

why is it that so few read it? If God means for us to ask, seek, and knock, then why is there so little praying? If we believe there is a hell and a heaven, why do we keep quiet about the gospel? Why don't we share the message of His saving grace? The reason why? A lack of commitment!

1. Be Committed to God. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life," Jn 3:16. God committed His Son to mankind so that we might commit our lives to Him. What boundless love! There is love in commitment, and if we truly love Jesus, we will be committed to Him. "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment," Mk 12:30. God has always demanded that we worship Him only, 1 Sam 7:3; Is 40:25; Mt 4:10 (Lk 4:8). There is no other god; He alone is all, and He commands our loyalty, Ex 20:3; Deut 4:39; 5:7; Is 44:8; 45:5-6, 14, 18, 21-22; 46:9; Dan 3:29; Joel 2:27; Mt 12:32; 1 Cor 8:4. There is nothing else like our God, and we must bow in praise to Him and choose Him exclusively, Ex 9:14; 2 Sam 7:22; Ps 86:8; Jer 10:6-7. If we find ourselves waning in commitment to Him, we need to read these verses, for He is a jealous God Who demands complete loyalty, Ex 20:5; 34:14; Deut 4:24; 5:9; 6:15; Josh 24:19. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon," Mt 6:24 (Lk 16:11-13). The Bible suggests that our choice is a no-brainer, because there is no one else to whom we can turn: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved," Ax 4:12.

There is no other rock on which to

build our lives. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ," 1 Cor 3:11; see Deut 32:4; 1 Sam 2:2. Our greatest desire should be our commitment to Him: "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause," Job 5:8; see Ps 31:1-8, esp. v. 5. Jesus committed Himself to God in faith, see Lk 23:46; 2 Pet 2:22-23. He would not commit Himself to men, Jn 2:24-25, but only to God. In the same way, we must commit our souls to God "in doing good, as to a faithful Creator," 1 Pet 4:19.

Real commitment does not have an on and off switch. Real commitment is not a Sunday thing; it's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, with no vacations or off days. We are the same person on Monday through Saturday as we are on Sunday. If we are really committed to God, it will show. Our actions and even our thoughts will be transformed: "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established," Pr 16:3. Others will see the fruits of our commitment, and we will be blessed by God. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," Mt 6:33.

2. Be Committed to Family. Why do statistics show that marriages are failing, that almost 50% of marriages in the US end in divorce? Lack of commitment. The Bible defines the way a family should be: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord," Col 3:18-20 (Eph 5:22, 25; 6:1-4). A husband has no problem loving a respectful wife. A wife has no problem being submissive to a loving husband. Children will love and honor parents who

continued on p. 3



Let your faith be seen in 2014
 “I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” —Colossians 2:5

Commitment, from p. 2

love them and teach them according to the Bible. How are you showing your love and respect in your family? How long since you kissed your mate and said, “I love you”? Do you show appreciation for your mom and dad, your sister, brother, or your children? “Honor your father and thy mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you; that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you,” Deut 5:16. How do you let your family know how much they mean to you? Decide now to be loyal, faithful, honest—committed—to your family, its best interest. Teach your family by your own example.

3. Be Committed to the Church.

This consists of 4 things:

A. Be committed to assembling with your brothers and sisters whenever you have the opportunity: “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..., but exhorting one another,” Heb 10: 24-25. Does your family need to ask, “Are we going to church today?” “Going to church” should be a given. Are we just too tired on Sunday afternoon or Wednesday night? When we get too busy to assemble with the church, we are too busy. Too many other things to do? God can take some things away, so we won’t have an excuse.

B. Be committed to the growth of the church. How many people did I invite to worship this week? How many did I talk to about Christ? Didn’t have the inclination? Then, we don’t have commitment to growth!

Discipleship Here At Home

The Damascus Road, from p. 1

to him on the road, Acts 26:15-18. In the city, Ananias came to Saul and told him what to do to be saved. God uses men to teach the gospel. What did Ananias tell Saul to do? Ananias did not exhort Saul to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, because he already believed on Him. He did not command him to repent of his sins, because Saul was as deeply penitent as a man could be. He did not tell him to pray for his salvation, because Saul had been praying fervently for three days. He did not tell him to wait for God to appear to him again. No, he told Saul to arise and be baptized to wash away his sins, Acts 22:16. **What would the Lord have you do to be saved?**

 (from left column)

C. Be committed to needs of others. Are we committed to giving? To meeting the needs of the church? It’s more than monetary; it’s supporting the church with our love, our prayers, our time, our availability, and our finances! The teaching and service don’t just happen by themselves. We need to be committed, see Mal 3: 8-10; 1 Cor 16:1-2.

D. Be committed to winning souls. “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he who wins souls is wise,” Pr 11:30. Some may say, “I can’t talk to people about the Lord,” but they have no problem talking about anything else. Jesus commanded us to teach others, Mt 28:19-20. Some may say, “I don’t know enough about the Bible.” Are you committed to learn the Bible? 2 Tim. 2:15. Are you committed to pray for wisdom? Jas 1: 5; 4:2-3. Ask, and be persistent in asking, “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened,” Mt 7: 8. Are you faithful to what God has entrusted to you? It all boils down to commitment.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Letha Fink’s husband **Ed**—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors
Randy Reames’s mother, **Una**, in her 80s—cancerous colon tumor removed last week
Mark Campbell—home from hospital for severe abdominal pain, bleeding
Sandra Perry’s daughter, **April Dunn**—to have C-section 3/5; fifth child
Judy Sartin’s aunt **Vallie Ek**, age 87—uterine cancer, heart failure; hospice; pray she returns to Lord in her last days; also **Judy’s** son **Dave’s** aunt, **June**, 80, passed away last week
Szymanskis’ granddaughter **Molly** and friends—witnessed teen **Vince Nett’s** suicide attempt
Josh McDonald, a friend of **Kory Tope**, and daughter **Casey**—unwanted divorce
David Hull, a friend of **Randy Reames**—leukemia relapse; infection; pray open to gospel
Caleb Howell’s friend **Cage**—body rejected liver transplant; colon cancer

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Bill Dennis, Nell Free—heart issues
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help around his house
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;
Virginia, macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes; kidney failure, may need dialysis
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis
Judy Sartin’s grandson **Tristen**—autism
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Traveling Caleb Howell in OK.

Job concerns **Linda Szymanski;** REJOICE: **Lorenzo Gonzalez** has accepted a job with Walgreen’s corporate office in Chicago

Expecting **Liz Kosik**, early April—blood platelets low; **Christina Adams’s** daughter **Kayla**, May

Directory Updates **Bill Dennis** has chosen to work and worship with this church: 333 East Eaton, #115 Lakewood, CO 80226 303-937-5119



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Disney's Two Moms, by Jim Daly

The Disney Channel recently introduced a subplot involving a lesbian couple to its popular children's show, Good Luck Charlie. The storyline involved Charlie's parents trying to remember the name of their daughter's friend's mom. The father remembered the mom's name as Cheryl, and the mother remembered the name as Susan. Turns out they were both right, because the little girl coming over to play had *two* mommies.

The Disney Channel is immensely popular with its target demographic, children. According to the network, it has a viewership of 1.02 million children between the ages of 2 and 11. That's a tremendous amount of influence Disney has over our kids, and they openly admit they are intentionally using it to "reflect themes of diversity and inclusiveness."

Yet their efforts contradict God's design for families, and ignore the many of us who believe that God's plan of a married mom and dad bringing children into the world and nurturing them together is best, not only for the children themselves but the culture at-large.

It's frustrating for us to see how, all too often, the culture is giving our children a message that counters God's plan.

Sure, we can turn off the TV and screen movies before we allow our kids to watch them. Some of us even have the option to send our kids to religious schools or to homeschool them in order to make sure God's point of view is the foundation of their educational curriculum.

However, despite our best efforts, in the end we know this much is true: The day will soon arrive for every family when we'll have to address sensitive issues. What's the best way a parent can respond? Well, you can wait until your sons or daughters ask you why their friend has two mommies to address the subject, but it's *best* to intentionally "train up your child" in God's truth from day one.

By taking an intentional approach to educating your sons and daughters about marriage, sexuality, and other important topics, you're helping to prepare them to deal with the counter-Biblical messages they'll receive via entertainment, school, and even their friends.

See Focus on the Family's free downloadable parenting kit, *Teach Your Children About Marriage*, at <http://media.focusonthefamily.com/fottf/pdf/channels/social-issues/teachkidsmarriage-pt1.pdf>



Westside

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning:

Adult Bible study, "Come out from among Them" Series, 2 Cor 6:17:

"Why We Differ from Some Other Churches of Christ," DeWayne Howell

Sermon:

"Calvinism vs. the Scriptures, part 1 of a series," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon theme for

February—COMMITMENT

Sermon: *"Committed,"* Kenny Boyd