

See How They Grew: (9) Saul - Their Key Convert

Acts 9.1-31

1. His Hostile Past, vs1-2

a man on a mission - 8.3; Ps 80.13

- to destroy the church 26.9

misplaced zeal Gal 1.13-14; 4.18

➤ *he approved Christians being killed
a religious duty 8.1; 26.10*

➤ *he arrested as many as possible
a mauling animal 8.3; 9.21*

➤ *he activated eradication 9.1-2
'ethnic cleansing' 26.11;22.4*

Why did God choose Saul?

for his zeal Rev 3.16

as an example of divine mercy

1 Tim 1.13-16

pray for persecutors Mat 5.43-45

2. His Encounter with Christ, vs3-7

- *it came out of the blue v3*
‘suddenly’
- Christ ‘seized’ him Phil 3.12
- *it challenged his hostility v4*
‘why attack me?’ Mat 12.30
to attack the church
is to attack Jesus Christ
- *it called for radical change v6*
you will be told what you must do
submit to Christ’s lordship 22.10
“my chosen instrument” v15

3. His Incorporation into the Church, vs7-30

- *Ananias: a vision specialist vs 8-18*
- *Damascus Church: gift developers*
vs 19-25
- *Barnabas: a befriender vs 26-28*
- *Jerusalem Church: protective*
vs 29-30