



SERMON NOTES

Week 2 October 2, 2022

“How the West Was Won”

Acts 8:1–3, Acts 9:10–11, 13–16, 19–21,
1 Corinthians 15:1, 3–10

I. Church Growth and Persecution

- A. After being beaten and warned not to speak the name of Jesus anymore, the _____ rejoiced and continued to preach.
- B. As the church grew, other leaders surfaced like a man named _____.
- C. _____ is standing there when Stephen is stoned to death and he gave his approval.

II. Conversion and Missionary Journey

- A. Paul has an encounter with _____ on the road to Damascus.
- B. God chooses the most unlikely candidate in the first century to be the mouthpiece of the gospel to the _____.
- C. After a decade preparation, Paul sets out on _____ journeys.

III. A Foundational Message

- A. Paul helped the Gentiles understand the _____ message of the gospel.
- B. Paul reminds the Corinthians that Jesus appeared to more than _____ hundred people at the same time.
- C. Paul’s foundational message is four _____ statements:
 - a. Christ died for our sins
 - b. He was buried
 - c. He was raised
 - d. He appeared

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *October 3-8, 2022*

INTRODUCTION

The message of Christianity comes in all shapes and sizes. Some people emphasize our brokenness. Others emphasize God's goodness... the need for repentance or forgiveness... having faith... walking in obedience. While all of these aspects are part of the Christian gospel, what was the essential message that ignited a movement that continues today?

Monday: Acts 9:1-9

Saul met Jesus in a dramatic, forceful way (perhaps because he had resisted many chances to respond to the message delivered in other ways). How did you meet Jesus? Was it a one-time event, or were there multiple movements toward (and maybe away from) Jesus as Lord of your life? What does it tell you about "the wideness in God's mercy" that God seems to meet each person in an individualized way?

Tuesday: Acts 9:10-22

Ananias made it clear that Jesus had sent him to Saul (verse 17). That confirmed that Saul really had met Jesus on the road, and energized him to begin preaching the truth of his newfound Lord (verse 20). Are you ever nervous about mentioning your faith because you fear offending someone? How can you build loving, caring connections with people who are different from you, connections in which your faith is a natural part of your identity and caring rather than a forced, awkward "witness"?

Wednesday: Acts 13:1-3, Acts 15:36-41

Much of the Book of Acts chronicles Paul's missionary travels in an attempt to spread the message of Jesus Christ to unreached regions. Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone who had never heard the message of Christianity before? If you have shared the Christian message with someone who had never heard it, what was that experience like? If you haven't, what prevents you from sharing the Christian message with others who have not heard it?

Thursday: Acts 7:54-8:3

The world has changed since New Testament times. Thankfully, it's unlikely any of us will ever die on a cross, or be stoned to death. Jesus and his follower Stephen, however, faced those terrible deaths. Yet both of them asked God to forgive even the people who were killing them, people who didn't even want to be forgiven. What is one specific relationship in which you will begin or deepen the process of moving more fully into the freedom of a forgiving life in the weeks ahead?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Paul clarifies the gospel message very succinctly. The gospel of Jesus Christ is clear: Christ died for our sins; he was buried; he was raised; he appeared. Why do Christians often add additional "requirements" to that gospel message?

MOVING FORWARD

The gospel of Jesus Christ is clear: Christ died for our sins; he was buried; he was raised; he appeared. This is the foundational message behind the movement that continues today. What are some ways you can share that message to those who have never heard it?

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) apostles, B) Stephen, C) Saul. IIA) Jesus, B) Gentiles, IIC) missionary. IIIA) foundational, B) five, C) simple.