

# The Road to and From Damascus

## Acts 9

### I. Saul's Tenacity to Destroy the Church

#### A. Saul's Systemic Support

*Acts: 5:33 When they heard this, the **high council** was furious and decided to kill them.*

#### B. Saul's Service within Council

*Acts: 7:57 Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him **58** and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul*

*Act: 8:1 Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.*

#### C. Saul's Zealous Search to Apprehend

**Acts: 9:1** Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. **a** So he went to the high priest. **2** He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

### II. Saul's Tracking Distinctly for the Church

#### A. Jesus found Saul

1. Casted light upon him (spotlight)
2. Made a post-ascension visit for him

#### B. Jesus prepped Saul for forgiveness

C. Jesus freed Saul---by keeping him blind for 3 day, by placing him in a position to not go back, to move him to a place of pray—to Christ

### III. Saul/Paul's Trusted Devotion to the Christ

#### A. Accepted the Calling

Acts:9:11-12 The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. **He is praying to me** right now. **12** I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

Acts: 9:13-16 But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! **14** And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name."

**15** But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my **chosen instrument** to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. **16** And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake.

#### B. Accepted the Challenge...

1. Against those he had supported
2. Among those who had known him

#### C. Acknowledged the Christ