

Ready, Fire! Aim...

Zeal and Knowledge in the life of Saul

Acts 9

It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.

Proverbs 19:2

Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly. **Proverbs 13:16**

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **Romans 12:11**

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' " **Matthew 22:37**

It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. **Galatians 4:18**

***Mature _____ in Life—Intelligent intensity will help us
make the maximum contribution every day of our lives.***

How Jesus Christ transformed Saul's life and human knowledge became Godly wisdom.

1. Saul was a militant persecutor of the _____.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **Acts 9:1-2**

as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. **Philippians 3:6**

Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. **Proverbs 10:14**

***Christians should seek to _____ the intellectual attainment
and the evangelistic passion of the Apostle Paul.***

The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.

Proverbs 15:14

Three limitations to human knowledge

- Knowledge cannot change the _____

For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

Ecclesiastes 1:18

- M_____ capacity limits knowledge

*What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? **Matthew 16:26***

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33***

- Knowledge can bring _____

We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.

*But the man who loves God is known by God. **1 Corinthians 8:1-3***

*Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **1 Corinthians 1:20-21***

*always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. **2 Timothy 3:7***

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **Romans 1:21***

2. Saul was _____ on the road to Damascus.

How Jesus Christ transformed Saul's life and human knowledge became Godly wisdom.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." **Acts 9:3-6***

Repentance is a change of the mind.

At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to

the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. **Acts 9:20-22**

So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. **Acts 9:28-31**

"The real secret of success is enthusiasm. When men get excited, they break down barriers, they master defeat, and they make a success of their lives." —Malcolm Chrysler

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. **Romans 10:1-3**

Difference between _____ and Wisdom

Knowledge

- Horizontal, worldly
- Accumulation of Facts
- Understanding Information

Wisdom

- Vertical, eternal
- Common-sense Application
- Perception about people

3. Saul, Apostle Paul begins his _____

How Jesus Christ transformed Saul's life and human knowledge became Godly wisdom.

Spiritual Wisdom produces Godly Zeal

1. Paul's Awareness of the _____ brought him Enthusiasm about Life after Death

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **1 Corinthians 15:20**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:21**

2. Paul was informed about God's grace and he was excited about living in _____.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Philippians 3:7-9

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13-14**

3. Paul was informed about God's providence and he was appreciative of every day.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:28**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

4. Paul was informed about the plan of salvation and he was _____ about evangelism.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23**

I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. **1 Corinthians 9:22**

For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. **Romans 9:3-4**

Key: Balance, church, combine, heart, Mental, pride, converted, Knowledge, ministry, Resurrection, obedience, intense