

Crossing Jordan... *"An overview of this week at Promised Land Church"*

Week through 2/10/2013

The Making of the Spiritual Man... *"The Apprehension"*

"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6a)

It has never ceased to amaze me the marvel of conversion. How men persistent in their sin, rebellion or religious fervor can be brought to a change of heart and purpose in a moment of time or literally stopped dead in their tracks! How men who were full of hate can now be filled with love, once full of shame to honor and glory, persistent in personal rebellion, now walking in divine obedience, fully polluted, now pure, rage filled, now at peace, in an acute state of unbelief, now full of faith. It is more amazing to note that Biblical conversion displays no evidence of the process of rehabilitation. Conversion shows itself as an event, not a process.

God apprehends men for his divine purpose and glory. When God was to judge the world with the flood, he apprehended Noah to spare and continue the human race. The Lord apprehended Abram to birth a godly nation (Israel) through which the Word of God and Christ the messiah of the world came through. God would apprehend Joseph to preserve that nation, Moses to deliver that nation, and Joshua to bring that nation across the river into her land of promise. Then in an apprehension of God, David would be chosen and raised up as King over Israel as one in whom had a "heart after God". He would institute divine worship and leadership in this chosen nation. And then Jeremiah apprehended as a young man to then plead with a backsliding nation, Esther to spare an exiled nation and Nehemiah to restore the nation.

In the New Testament came John the Baptist, apprehended from conception to introduce Christ to a nation now saturated in religion and ritual, the Disciples of Christ hand selected as they heard the words "follow me" and then we read in our text of Saul of Tarsus hell-bent to destroy Christianity now laying prostrate in the dirt shaking like a leaf in an Autumn wind! Oh, the marvel of how God in sovereignty calls men apprehends and saves!

Saul, now interrupted in his self will finds himself in the presence of the Lord and without strength. He has been humbled and brought low. The only response left in his vocabulary was *"Lord, what wilt thou have me do?"* Look at him now! What happened? Saul who would later become the Apostle Paul was apprehended! Why? God needed a "master-builder of the church"! This brings us to our theme. The truly spiritual man has a beginning. He or she has been apprehended of the Lord. There was a place in time when we were brought face to face with our true sinful condition and confronted by the gospel message. There was no process of salvation but a confrontation of the heart and an immediate believing upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! The spiritual man was birthed at conversion, not produced by religion.

There are many today who do not know the Lord but attend and fill churches. As we endeavor to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of the cross, the Lord will confirm his Word again by calling and drawing men unto himself in a true life-long conversion of heart. Have you dear reader been apprehended of the Lord or are you a product of a religious system and like Saul, have a hatred of the true born again child of God? Laugh, mock scorn if you will, others throughout history have tried. You may one day find yourself in a heap in the dust, humbled and shaking at Jesus feet! May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you!

Pastor Jeffrey W. Steiner