

Week 1 - Wednesday, August 17  
ST. PAUL: APOSTLE TO THE WORD  
with Dr. Geoffrey Lentz

## A Damascus Road Experience: Paul's Conversion

Readings: Acts 7:57–8:3, Acts 22:3-5, Philippians 3:4–6, Galatians 1:13-17, 1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 2 Corinthians 12:1-7, Acts 9, Acts 22:6-21, Acts 26:12-18

We will learn who Saul of Tarsus was, his training as a Pharisee, and his role in persecuting the church. We contemplate what happened on the Damascus Road and find that it is not the conversion that we imagined—instead of joining a new religion, Paul had an experience of the risen Jesus Christ.

- I. Introduction of Class
  - A. Syllabus
  - B. Bibles
  - C. Readings
  
- II. Saul of Tarsus before conversion
  - A. Galatians 1:13-17 and Philippians 3:4–6
  - B. Tarsus
  - C. Pharisee Upbringing—
  - D. Zeal (Story of Phineas—Numbers 25:1-11, Psalm 106:28-31 “Righteousness”)
  - E. Persecutor of Christians
  
- III. Conversion on the Road to Damascus
  - A. 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-7
  - B. Three accounts in Acts
  - C. Revelation
  - D. Saul vs Paul
  - E. How was Paul praying—*Merkabah* mysticism
  
- IV. What kind of Conversion?
  
- V. How can we experience this same kind of conversion?
  
- VI. Closing Reflection

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**  
*by Paul Baloche*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy