

Lessons from J.R. Bronger

by Wayne Goff

Last Monday night, J.R. Bronger presented a lesson on the **Conversion of Saul of Tarsus** (Acts 9, 22, 26). Though you **THINK** you may have heard the lesson before, often we learn *new* lessons from the most *familiar* things! Here are **five lessons** he gleaned and shared from Saul's conversion:

1. **Anyone can be saved, 1 Timothy 1:15-16.**

There is no sin one can commit which cannot be forgiven by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, if only he/she will repent of that sin. Saul of Tarsus was guilty of murder, blasphemy, and other atrocities. Yet he said *"that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life."* Jesus can forgive you, too.

2. **Sincerity does not equal truth, Acts 23:1.**

Saul lived in all good conscience before God while he was persecuting Christians. He learned by the grace and mercy of God that he was wrong. He had been *"kicking against the goads,"* but when he learned the truth, he changed. You can change, too.

3. **We must experience godly sorrow to be saved, 2 Corinthians 7:10.**

Saul was truly sorrowful and penitent for the wrongs he had done. He spent three days without sight, not eating or drinking anything. Once converted, he spent the rest of his life letting Jesus live through him, Galatians 2:20.

4. **God can/will use certain "nobodies" if we are willing, Acts 9:10.**

Ananias was *"a certain disciple."* He was not a preacher, an elder, or an apostle. He was simply *"a certain disciple."* Yet what he did was help convert the man who later became a great apostle and inspired author of half of the New Testament! He was willing to do. So can you.

5. **Learn the art of Christian forgiveness, Matthew 6:14-15.**

The man who had been guilty of committing men and women to prison and certain death was now converted and returned to Jerusalem where *"he tried to join the disciples"* (Acts 9:26). Through the recommendation of Barnabas, he was accepted into the local church (vv. 27-28). How many disciples in Jerusalem had lost loved ones because of what Saul had done? And now they were forgiving him and accepting him into their fellowship! Could you do the same thing? Forgive men the way that you want your heavenly Father to forgive you, Matthew 6:14-15!

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