

On Being Honestly & Sincerely Wrong [continued from 280902]

by Bill Crews

Saul of Tarsus, with zeal for God (Acts 22:3), with a clear conscience (Acts 23:1), believing that Jesus was an impostor and that His followers were deluded apostates, threw himself into the task of stamping out the movement by seeking out, arresting, imprisoning and executing the disciples of Jesus (Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 22:19-20; 26:9-11). How mistaken he was and how wrong he was, but he was honestly and sincerely mistaken and wrong. That is why, when he was shown that he was wrong, that without any hesitation he was convicted of his sins, believed in Jesus, repented of his sins, acknowledged the Lordship and deity of Jesus, was baptized in obedience to Christ, and zealously and sincerely gave the rest of his life in humble service to Him. He had been honestly and sincerely wrong, but when convinced of the fact, he chose to stop being wrong rather to stop being honest. You can read the three accounts of his conversion in Acts 9:1-18; 22:3-16; and 26:4-20.

Kind reader, can a person be honestly and sincerely wrong in his religious faith and practice? Can he think that he was saved when he was not? Can he think that he has been a Christian when he has not? Can he think that he has the hope of eternal life when he does not? If he can, and surely he can, what should he do when he realizes it? Rest assured that he will either cease to be wrong, by changing, or cease to be honest by refusing to change. The Bible tells us to "*prove all things*" (1 Thess. 5:21). The Bible tells us to make our "*calling and election sure*" (2 Pet. 1:10-11).

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