

## **Saul's Ministry Begins**

1. Observation and exposition of Acts 9:19-31
2. The take-away for us?

### **Observation and exposition of Acts 9:19-31**

1. We are creatures of time and space
  - a. 100 years ago on this date
  - b. 23 years ago on this date
  - c. Survey: When reading the Bible, does anyone here try to fit things into a timeline?
2. Read **Acts 9:19-31**
3. General observations and background
4. Summary
  - a. "With Luke's estimate of the importance of Saul's conversion neither the historian nor the theologian can quarrel. The spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire cannot be imagined apart from his work. He was indeed a chosen instrument in the hand of the risen Lord, fitted for his life-work before his conversion - set apart for it indeed, as he acknowledges, before his birth (Gal. 1:15). Born a 'Hebrew' son of 'Hebrew' parents, and given the best education in his ancestral traditions that contemporary Judaism could provide, he also inherited the rare privilege of Roman citizenship, while his debt to Hellenistic culture is plain to every reader of his letters. When in due course God 'revealed his Son' in Saul of Tarsus, he devoted all this wealthy inheritance, together with his rare natural abilities, to the task of Gentile evangelization; and, latecomer though he was among the apostles, he 'worked harder than any of them, though [he added] it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me' (1 Cor. 15:10)." Bruce, 196-197

## **The take-away for us**

### **Resources**

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson

4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, F. F. Bruce