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3-2-2024  
TRANSFORMED

One of the most amazing transformations in the bible is the Apostle Paul. He was known as Saul before his conversion. He was from Tarsus.

“Saul” as a Jewish student studied under Gamaliel who was the most respected teacher in his day. It could only happen if Saul’s family were wealthy enough to send him to that school. Saul’s family were tentmakers, and he continued that trade even after his conversion.

Much of the New Testament was written by the converted Saul. Paul was a Pharisee, and likely part of the Sanhedrin which made the decisions or laws for the Jews. He was determined to eradicate those of the newly formed sect called “The Way.” The way was the name of those that followed after Jesus Christ and his teachings. Jesus had many issues with the legalists of his time, just like we may in this day and time. They were the ones that brought Jesus to trial and condemned him to death.

“Saul” was present at the stoning of the first Christian martyr, Stephen. Saul thought it was his mission to hunt down those of the way and eliminate every one of them. Then he met someone that transformed his life. Saul was on the way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there when Jesus met him. He was blinded by the light of God that touched him, and Jesus brought Saul to his knees. It was at that place that there was a transformation in Saul that would change the world. No longer was he a persecutor of “The Way.” Not only was he now a source of light to those in darkness like he had been, but the persecutor became the persecuted. Jesus told him that he would suffer for the gospel’s sake, but Paul counted the cost.

Most of us would shy away from persecution and a death sentence on our heads. But not Paul. He forged his way through Asia and brought the gospel to the gentiles. His transformation on that road to Damascus not only changed him, but it is also still changing lives today, including mine.

I pray that you have met the Savior like Saul did and have surrendered your life to Jesus. Then, like Saul, you will be transformed out of darkness into God’s glorious light.