

ON YOUR ROAD TO DAMASCUS

7/11/09

\* What is sin?

1 John 3:4      sin is the transgression of the law  
James 4:7        sin is based upon knowledge  
Romans 14:23     sin is based upon faith -- upon conscience

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\*What knowledge do you understand that seems like nobody else understands?

\*On the other hand -- what knowledge do other people understand that you don't seem to understand?

\*Furthermore -- what knowledge do you and almost everyone else in this room understand, except for those few unfortunate people who just don't seem to get it?

\*Is there any possible chance that almost everyone in this room understands some knowledge and you are one of the unfortunate people who just doesn't seem to get something?

\*An interesting thought -- is there any chance that almost everyone in this room understands that you have a certain personality trait and you are the only one who doesn't see your trait?

\*Furthermore -- is there any chance that almost everyone in this room understands that you have a certain character trait and you are the only one who doesn't see your trait?

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\* How well do you receive correction (adjustment) in your life?

\* We desire to receive correction from God.  
We study the written Word of God  
We listen to the preaching of the Word of God  
We watch the Word of God exemplified in people  
We hear correction from people whom we trust and respect  
We sometimes recognize piercing correction from strangers and/or from people we don't respect

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\* Let's look briefly at the life of Saul.

Acts 7:58 1st time Saul is mentioned -- when the mob stoned Stephen, the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul

Acts 8:1 Paul was consenting to Stephen's death -- there was great persecution against the church at Jerusalem -- the brethren were spread abroad

Acts 22:3 a Jew, born in Tarsus (a city of Cilicia) -- a student of Gamaliel

Acts 5:34 a member of the council -- a Pharisee -- a doctor of the law

35-39 he recommended that the council not slay the apostles -- (as had been recommended in verse 33)

40 then, the council beat the apostles and let them go

Acts 22:3 taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers

Phil. 3:2 beware of dogs -- beware of evil workers -- beware of the concision

3 we are of the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit; who rejoice in Christ Jesus and who have no confidence in the flesh

4-6 Paul explained why he might trust in the flesh more than most people

Acts 22:3 Paul was very zealous toward God

4-5 Paul persecuted believers unto death -- he put them into prison

19 Paul reiterated -- I imprisoned -- I beat believers in every synagogue

20 and I consented to Stephen's death

Acts 26:10 Paul told Agrippa -- I put many saints into prison -- having received authority from the high priests -- I consented to some deaths

11 I punished them often in every synagogue -- I compelled them to blaspheme -- and being exceedingly angry against them, I persecuted them, even unto foreign cities

12 when I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests.....

Acts 9:1-2 breathing out threatenings & slaughter against the disciples of the Lord -- permission to take them to Jerusalem

3 as he came to Damascus -- a light from heaven

4 Paul fell to the earth -- Paul heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"