



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Aha Moment

Over the last several days I've felt a lot better. So much so that I have begun again at attempting that writing project I said last year that I needed to do. The work is progressing well. I have finished the introduction and am working on the overview.

Yesterday I only spent a short time working on this and I'll tell you why at the end of what I'm writing. For now, I want to share something that I'm putting in that book. This isn't something that I'm preaching as a gospel fact, it's merely something to consider.

I have never understood why God intentionally blinded Paul, then only partially healed him. While doing some proofreading yesterday I noticed something that caused me to experience an aha moment. I saw something in the story of Paul who became Saul that I have never before heard taught. Let me share with you the first draft of what I found. And realize that this is unedited and I have trouble with tenses when I write.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. – Galatians 1:6-12 NIV

The apostle Paul began life as someone known as Saul. He was devoted to the Jewish laws and diligently persecuted the Christians. He even traveled to other areas in search of them so he could sign their death warrants.

While on the way to Emmaus his trip was interrupted by a bright light which temporarily blinded him. Jesus was in that light and spoke to him.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. – Acts 9:1-9 NIV

Eventually Saul's sight was healed though scholars speculate on whether or not it was fully healed. There are indications in the Bible that he had vision problems. After Saul had been in Damascus for 3 days God sent a man named Ananias to him. Ananias prayed for Saul and something like scales fell from his eyes.

Traditionally the religious organizations have taught that this healing of his vision is a literal healing from blindness. That is certainly a possibility. But I'm seeing something more in this story. Up until that time Paul had been zealous in his acts of seeking the Jews who had converted to Christianity. When he found them he treated them in ways unspeakable. Many times those Christians were destroyed, yet Paul was sincere in his belief that this behavior was condoned by God.

We can consider the possibility that Paul was blinded by the teachings of the Pharisees of whom he was one, not by God. While in pursuit of more Christians he was stopped in his tracks when spoken to by Jesus who asked why he was persecuting Him. This may have struck Paul to the core in that it revealed to him his actions were not Heaven-ordained.

The *American Standard Version* states that [when his eyes were opened he saw nothing](#). It's a possibility this means he had suddenly become open to the reality that there was something else God wanted him to do but he didn't have a clue what that was so he saw nothing. He then spent three days doing some serious soul-searching. At the end of those three days God sent Ananias to him to pray for him. When Ananias prayed the scales which fell from Paul eyes may have been the barriers, the preconceived ideas, the Pharasical teachings, the lies that kept Paul from knowing the truth, and at that moment he awakened to the reality that killing Christians was wrong.

God called Saul apart for a time where he could receive those revelations from Jesus which he spoke of in Galatians. [For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but *it came to me* through revelation of Jesus Christ. – Galatians 1:11,12 ASV](#) Saul was receptive to the truth about God and began traveling about, preaching the Good News

about Jesus and winning many converts for the Lord.

This was enough of a different concept than what we've been taught that I decided to go ahead and share it in advance. No, I'm not advocating that this is what actually happened, I wasn't there. But it makes sense to me that God relieved him of the blindness that had been placed upon him by the impostor by means of false teachings. It's never made sense that God would intentionally blind someone then grant him his eyesight back but only partially restore it.

So, I said I would share something with you at the end. I'm soliciting your prayers. Wednesday night I went to bed about 8 and got up at 10. When I woke there was something extremely painful on the inside of my thigh and way up at the top. I stayed up until 3 waiting for Elkanah to awaken because I wanted him to take a look and see what was going on.

We feared I had been bitten by a spider. A few days earlier I had seen a medium-sized gray and hairy spider in the house. I was barefoot and had nothing in my hand to try to squash him. By the time I got back with something he was gone. So I know there is or was an uninvited spider in this house.

We stripped the covers off my bed and examined them closely but didn't find any spider in it.

Thursday morning Elkanah called to get me a doctor's appointment. He was able to schedule me with the nurse practitioner and I went to see her that afternoon. She didn't think it was a spider bite, she thought it was something else. That something else is probably staph. I carried it a long time and thought I had finally overcome it but she indicated that she thought it was the same old stuff that keeps breaking out on me. I have been tested for MRSA but thankfully I don't have that.

She sent me home with what I believe is a heavy dose of antibiotics and instructions on what to do to try to drain that thing. She had been unable to lance it because I had a reaction to Lidocain the last time it was used on me and she didn't want to put me through that again. She did make an attempt to drain it by poking holes in it with a needle but wasn't successful.

From here the story turns into a tale of blood and gore so let's not continue it. I'm asking for prayers that God will heal me of whatever it is that keeps breaking out on me in these nasty lesions. I'm hoping that the antibiotic I'm taking now is strong enough this time to kill the germ but it's always a good thing to ask God to give that human remedy a nudge in the right direction.

And with that, I wish you a happy Sabbath.

Love to all,

Hannah

P.S. Does anyone know how to remove contaminated blood stains from a carpet? If so, let me know.