

“A PERSECUTOR TURNS PREACHER”

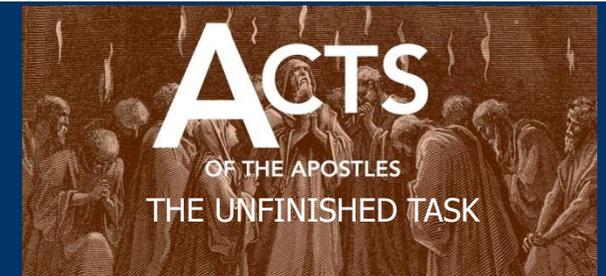
(Acts 9:1-22)

Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 18

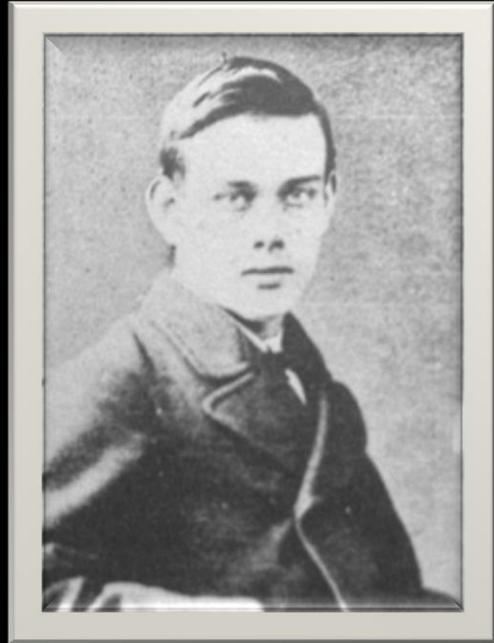
Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: April 7, 2019

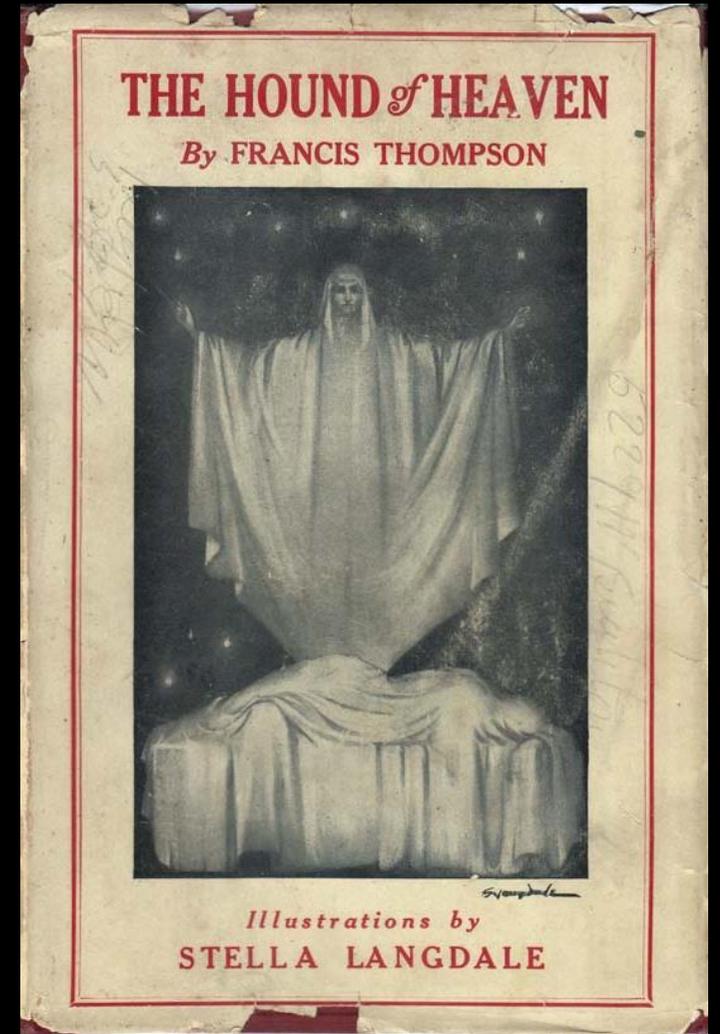
Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



Francis
Thompson



INTRODUCTION:



Francis
Thompson

I fled Him, down the nights and
down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of
the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine
ways of my own mind; and in the
mist of tears.

INTRODUCTION:

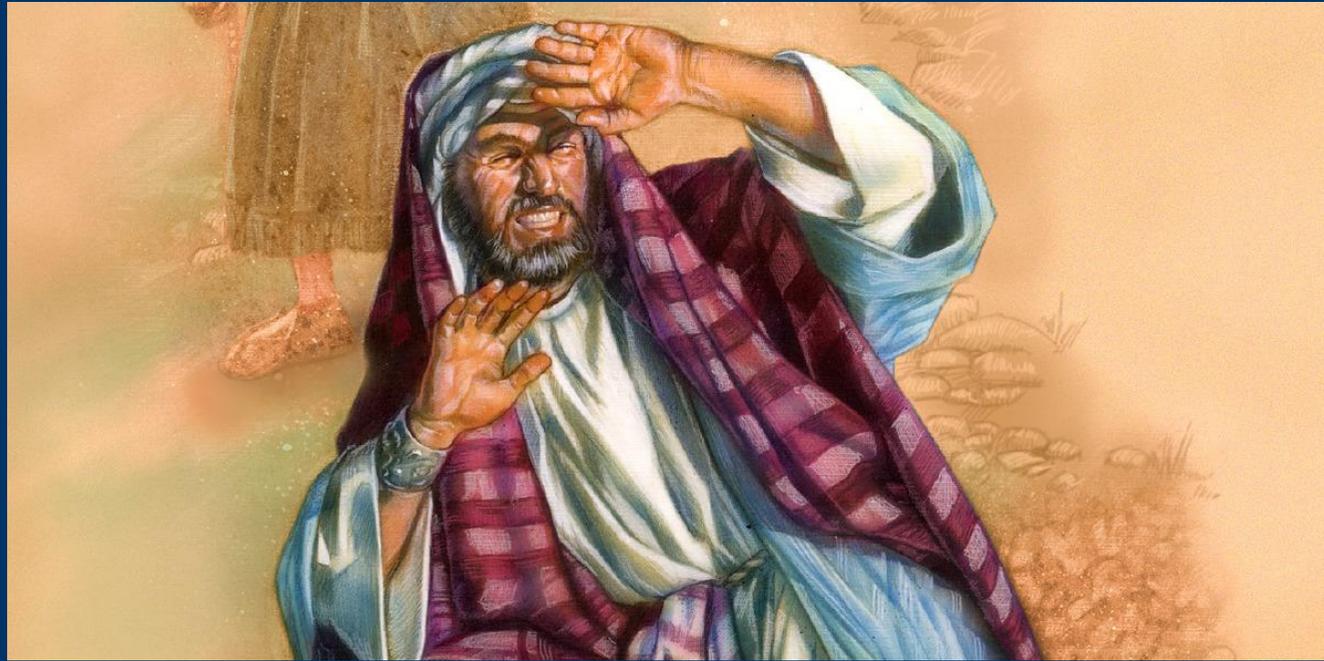


Francis
Thompson

I hid from Him, and under running
laughter...
Still with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
Came on the following Feet,
And a Voice above their beat -
"Naught shelters thee, who wilt not
shelter Me."

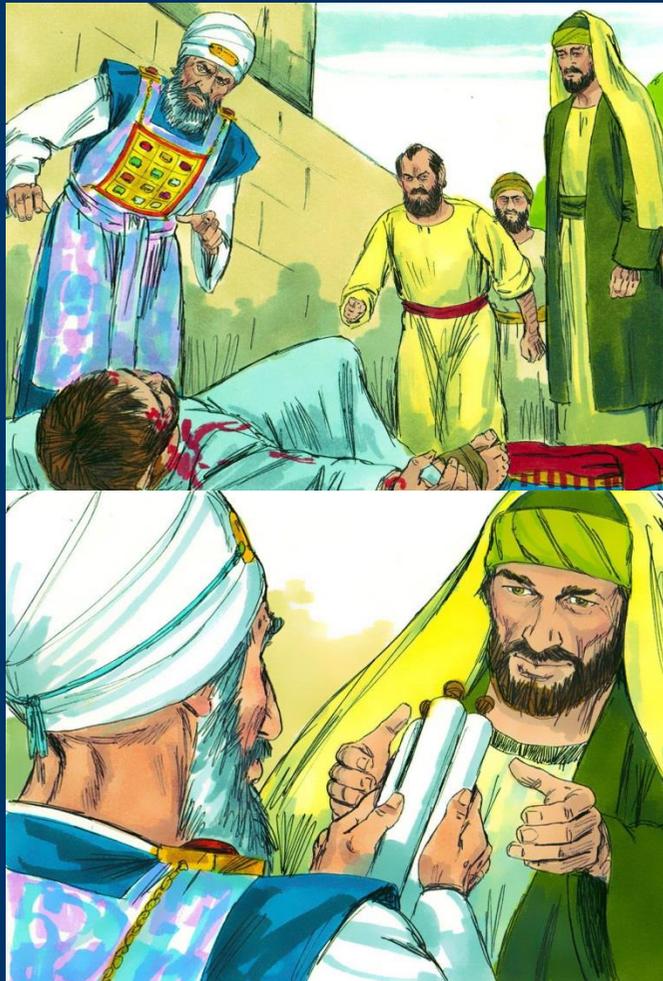
INTRODUCTION:

**Until Christ, one day, caught him
on the dusty road to Damascus.**



I. PRIOR TO SAUL'S CONVERSION

Saul the Persecutor:



Acts 8:1a *Saul was in "hearty agreement" with the killing of Stephen.*

Acts 9:1 *Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² 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.*

II. ACCOUNT OF SAUL'S CONVERSION

A) *Divine Phenomena*



Acts 9:3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.



⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

II. ACCOUNT OF SAUL'S CONVERSION

B) Personal Dialogue



Acts 9:5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

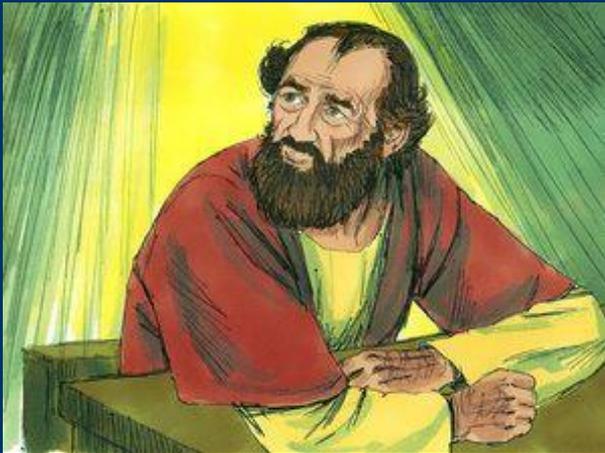
6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."



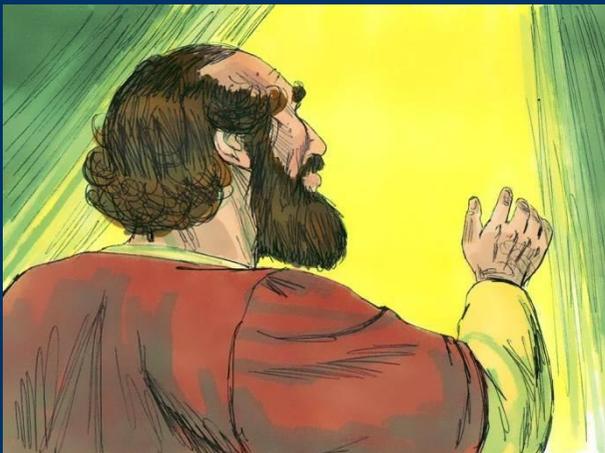
7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. *8* Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.

III. EVENTS AFTER SAUL'S CONVERSION

A) A Vision: *The Lord and Ananias*



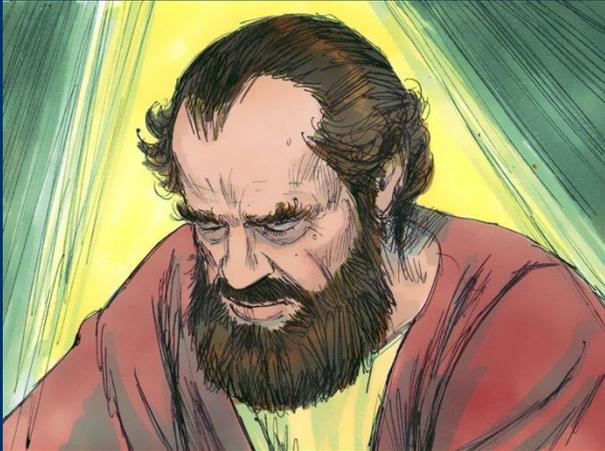
Acts 9:11 *The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. **12** In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*



Acts 9:13 *"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. **14** And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

III. EVENTS AFTER SAUL'S CONVERSION

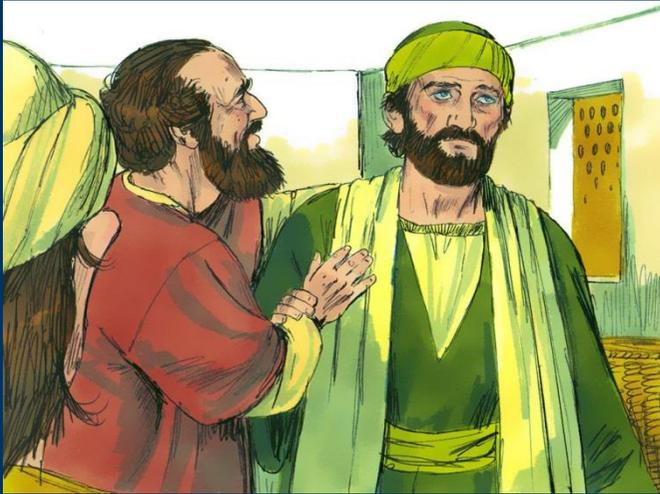
A) A Vision: *The Lord and Ananias*



Acts 9:15 *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. **16** I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

III. EVENTS AFTER SAUL'S CONVERSION

B) A Contact: *Ananias and Saul*

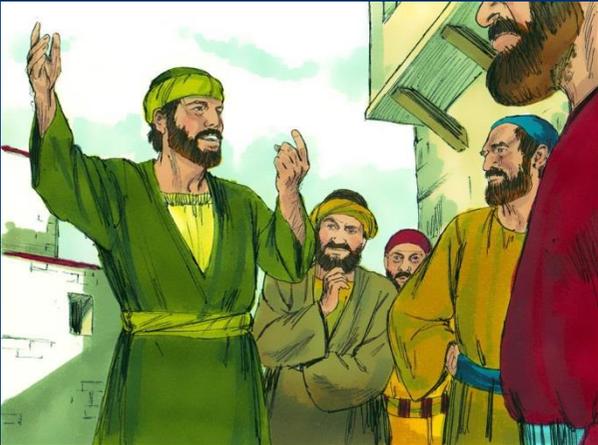


Acts 9:17 *Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

18 *Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.*

III. EVENTS AFTER SAUL'S CONVERSION

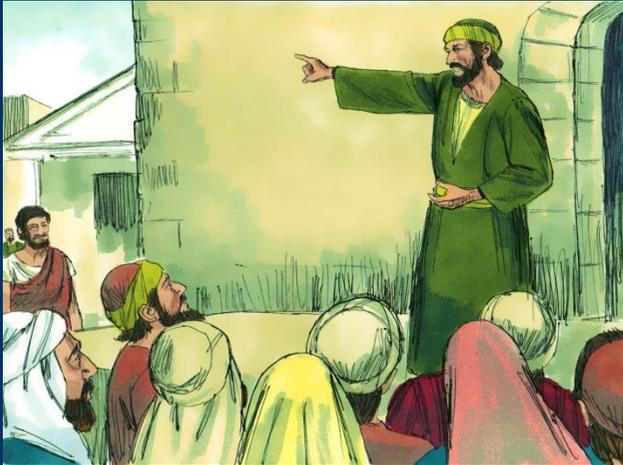
C) A Relationship: *Saul and the Disciples*



Acts 9:19b "For several days, he was with the disciples who were at Damascus"

III. EVENTS AFTER SAUL'S CONVERSION

C) A Relationship: *Saul and the Disciples*



Acts 9:20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. **21** All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name?"

*And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" **22** Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.*

CONCLUSION:

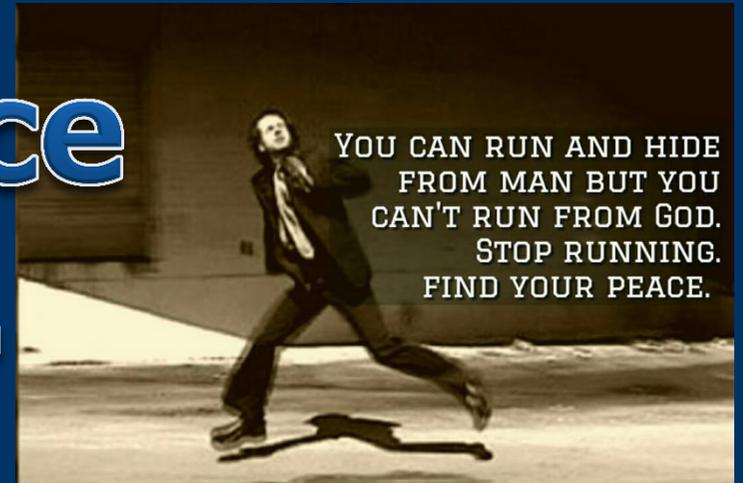


The circumstances of Saul's transformation were unique, but the principles apply to us today. Christ still pursues, and we still run.



Are you running, sensing His footsteps but too proud or too afraid to let Him catch you?

**Respond in obedience
when He calls you.**





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Are there moments in life that you hear God calling you and you try hard to ignore Him? Share some of those moments.*
- 2. What was Saul's life like before he had an encounter with God? Was he aware that he was running away from God?*
- 3. Put yourself in Saul's shoes and describe what his feeling was like when he has an unexpected encounter with Jesus? How would you feel when suddenly you come to a realization that all that you were passionately doing was wrong?*
- 4. What transformation took place in Saul's life when he was suddenly struck blind? What would you do if God asked you to minister to an enemy of Christ?*



Scripture References:

Acts 9:1-22