

Blind for three days

-- from notes by Jorge Rodriguez
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Introduction

A. **Acts 9:9**

1. Why did the Lord wait for three days to send Ananias?
2. Appears to have been deliberate, on purpose, but for what purpose?
3. Lord does not say, but Saul certainly had three days to think in the darkness.

B. Our proposition: What could Paul begin to see in those three days of blindness?

I. His zeal and hatred against Christians was misdirected.

A. **Matthew 28:12-15**, the saying went abroad that the Christians had stolen the body.

B. Unbelievers thought the Christians were an evil and corrupt group who conspired to bring an end to Judaism based on a great lie. Saul wanted the Christians wiped from the face of the earth!

C. NOW -- Saul has seen that the Resurrection of Jesus was not a lie -- but the TRUTH. He has SEEN HIM AND HEARD HIM.

D. His spiritual guides had DECEIVED him

1. Those "great teachers" he trusted.
2. In our times, many trust blindly in seemingly great men who themselves are deceived.
3. When the issue is OUR IMMORTAL SOUL, we must not trust in MEN -- but in God.

-- **Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 15:13**

-- **1 Peter 4:11; Acts 17:13**

II. Acts 26:9 -- Years later Paul retells story --

A. Persecuted Christians thinking it was his DUTY

1. If he had not, his conscience would have reproached him.
2. His conscience was quieted by jpersecuting Christians.

B. NOW -- had seen the LORD-- knows that his conscience had been deceived.

1. We can FEEL SURE all is well because our conscience does not reproach us.
-- Paul's case shows us that feeling can be wrong.

2. We must instruct our conscience. If our information is FALSE, we can be praised for doing evil.

C. Conscience is NOT OUR GUIDE -- Only the WORD OF GOD IS ALWAYS TRUE.

III. Saul NOW understands he has committed a horrible sin.

A. Imprisoned Christians -- compelled them to blaspheme Christ -- some were killed.

B. Saul must be PUZZLED: Why has God not truck him dead? -- AS HE DESERVED?

1. Instead, Lord appeared to him.
2. Instead, Lord asked, Why have you done this?
3. Instead, Lord asked, It is hard for you to kick against the goad. (prick)
4. When he asked, What do you want me to do?
 1. Implied that Lord had not rejected him, but rather gave him hope!
 2. Surely the Lord would forgive!
 3. Undoubtedly Saul thought long and hard those three days on the LOVE AND MERCY OF

GOD!.

C. Lord has the same love for you and me. **John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 2 Pet. 3:9**

-- We must see and treasure that love for each of us.

-- Every sinner must responde to the Love,
1 John 4:19 our love;
1 John 5:3 our obedience

Conclusion

- A. Saul clearly used those three days well
 - 1. Well disposed to obey immediately
 - 2. But also to struggle,work, suffer, and die for Christ
- B. Same Lord calls us patienetly to do the same.