

How and When Was Paul Saved?

**A Simple Study of Salvation
by the Life of Saul of Tarsus**

When Was Paul Saved?

- **Most think this question is very easily answered.**
- **They presume he was saved on the Damascus Road.**
- **They are certain salvation is by a decision for Jesus.**
- **Our great apostle testified often about his salvation.**
- **With his theological wisdom, we should learn a lot.**



Saul Before Damascus Road

- **Breathing out threatenings and slaughter** (Acts 9:1).
- **Persecuted “this way” unto the death** (Acts 22:4).
- **Many things contrary to Jesus of Nazareth** (Acts 26:9).
- **Persecuted the church of God and wasted it** (Gal 1:13).
- **A blasphemer, persecutor, and injurious** (I Tim 1:13).







Paul Spoke of this Event Often

- In Acts 9, Luke recorded what happened on the road.
- In Acts 22, Paul told Jerusalem Jews about the event.
- In Acts 26, Paul told King Agrippa about the event.
- In Galatians 1-2, Paul told the Galatians about it.
- In I Timothy 1, Paul told Timothy as well about it.

Most Think It Went Like This (1)

- Jesus: *Saul, Saul, will you accept me as your Saviour?*
- Saul: *Jesus, I'm a sinner; save me! I'm afraid of hell!*
- Jesus: *You're born again! Your name is in heaven!*
- Saul: *Is that all there is to it? What if I die tonight?*
- Jesus: *Heaven's a done deal, no matter how you live!*

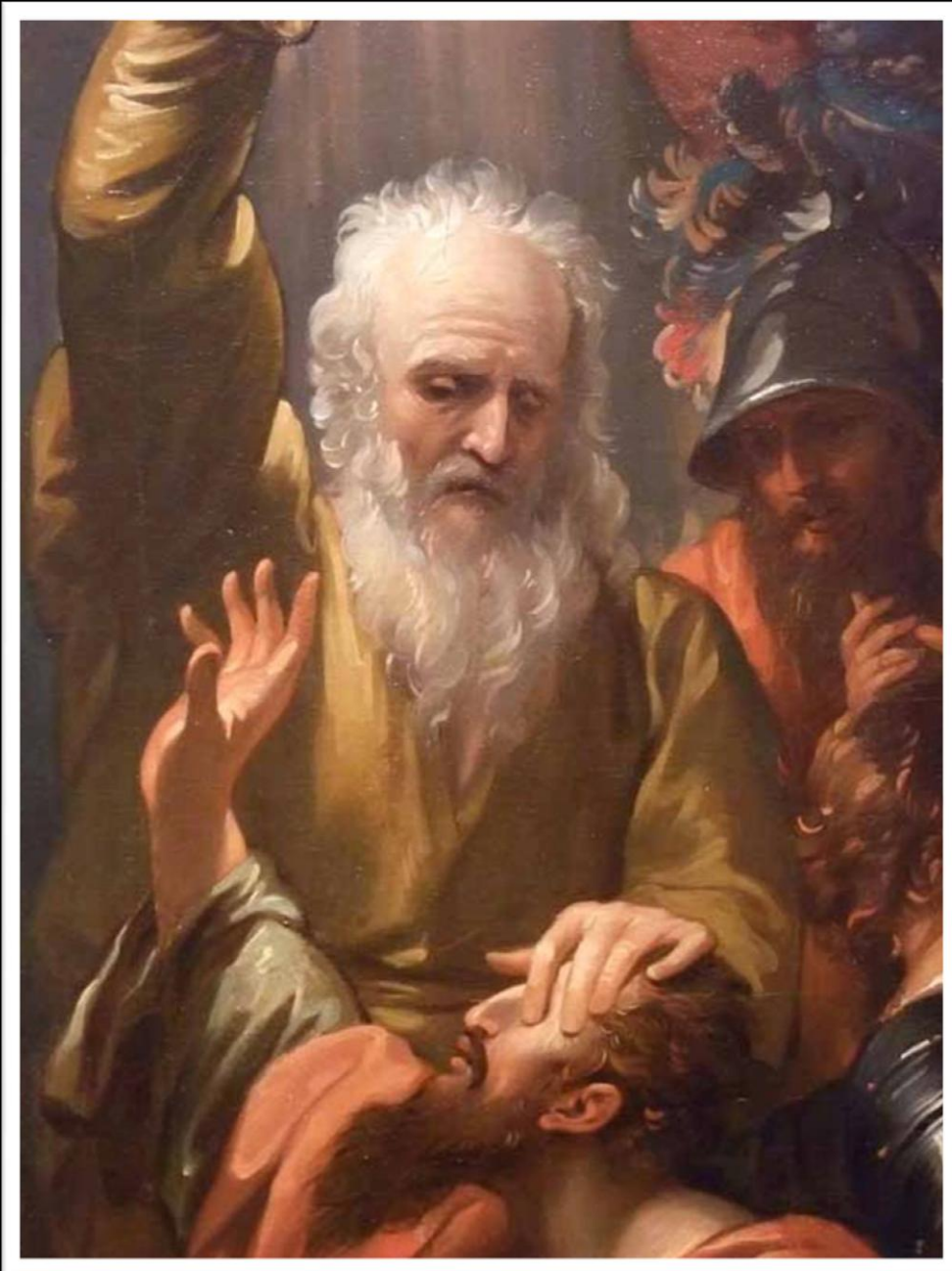
Most Think It Went Like This (2)

- Saul: *I want more assurance, cause I know I will sin!*
- Jesus: *Don't worry at all! Once saved, always saved!*
- Saul: *That was fast and easy! What shall I do next?*
- Jesus: *Keep the Great Commission! Replicate, man!*
- Saul: *I'm on it, Lord! I'll pack 'em in like NewSpring!*

In Truth, It Went Like This!

- Jesus: *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*
- Saul: *Who art thou, Lord?*
- Jesus: *I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:*
- Saul: *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*
- Jesus: *Arise, and go into the city ...*





Why Did Jesus Appear to Saul?

- **Saul was one of His elect and an apostle-to-be!**
- **Evangelism's goal is to convert the elect (II Tim 2:10).**
- **Jesus had to call Paul to the ministry (Acts 26:16).**
- **Jesus had to show Paul what to preach (Gal 1:15-16).**
- **God showed him mercy for his ... *unbelief* (I Tim 1:13)!**

Why Did Saul Call Jesus, Lord? (1)

- **Saul was already born again well before this event.**
- **John Baptist and Cornelius were also born again early.**
- **His second “Lord” proves prior regeneration (I Cor 12:3).**
- **Many saw greater miracles ... but hated, killed Jesus!**
- **Jesus had been “pricking” Saul (Acts 2:37 vs. Acts 5:33; 7:54).**

Why Did Saul Call Jesus, Lord? (2)

- **It is impossible to prick unregenerate (I Co 2:14; Jn 8:43).**
- **Jesus counted him faithful before Damascus (I Tim 1:12).**
- **He had a clear conscience with God (Acts 23:1; II Tim 1:3).**
- **God's grace supplied Saul's faith and love (I Tim 1:14).**
- **Confronted by Jesus Christ, Saul caved and converted.**

What Did Saul Do to Be Born Again?

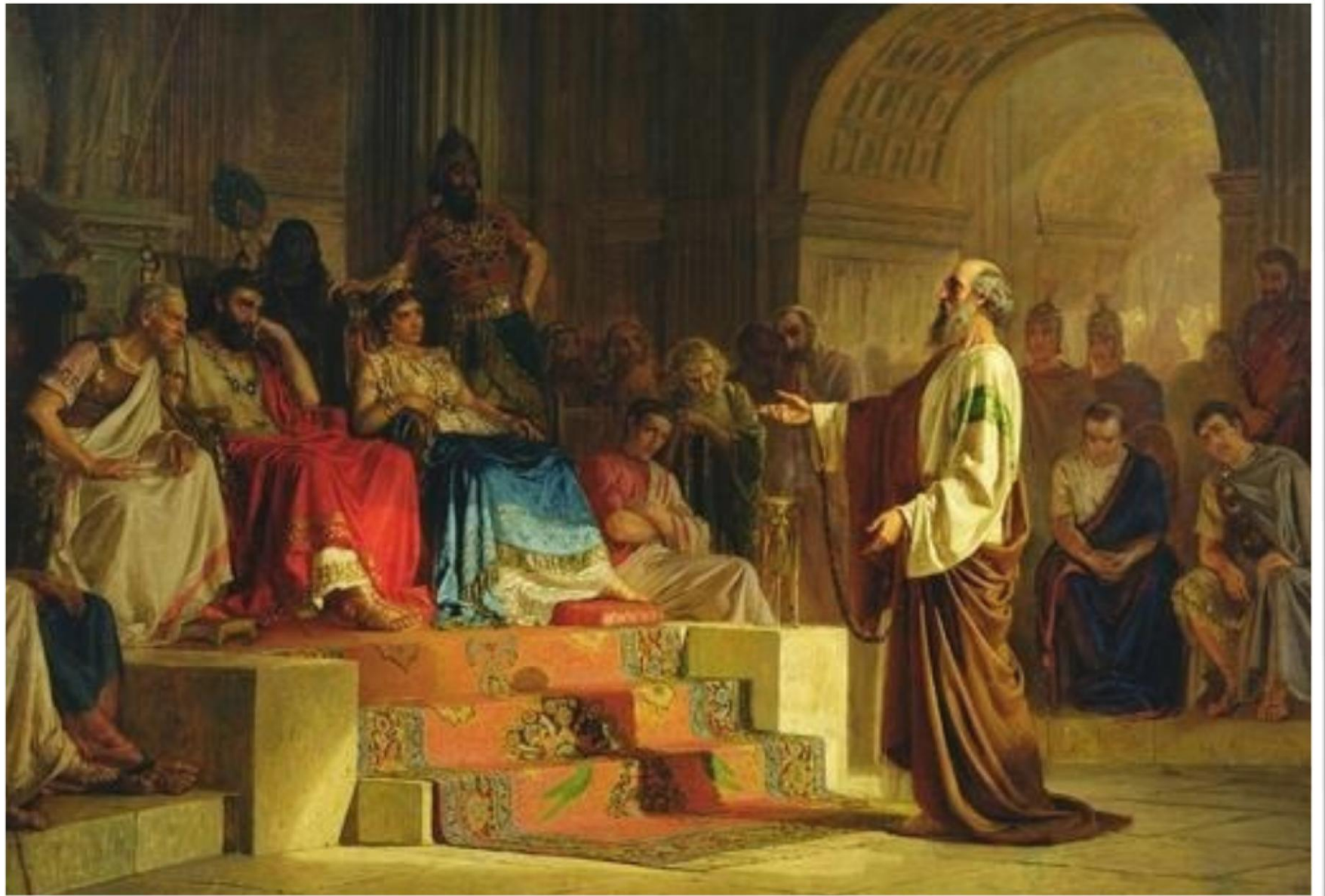
- **Absolutely nothing, because God regenerated first!**
- **God the Father mightily drew Saul to Jesus (Jn 6:44,65).**
- **God opened his heart like He did Lydia's (Acts 16:14).**
- **The kindness, love, and mercy was of God (Titus 3:3-7).**
- **Saul was born again earlier, like Cornelius (Acts 10:1-4).**

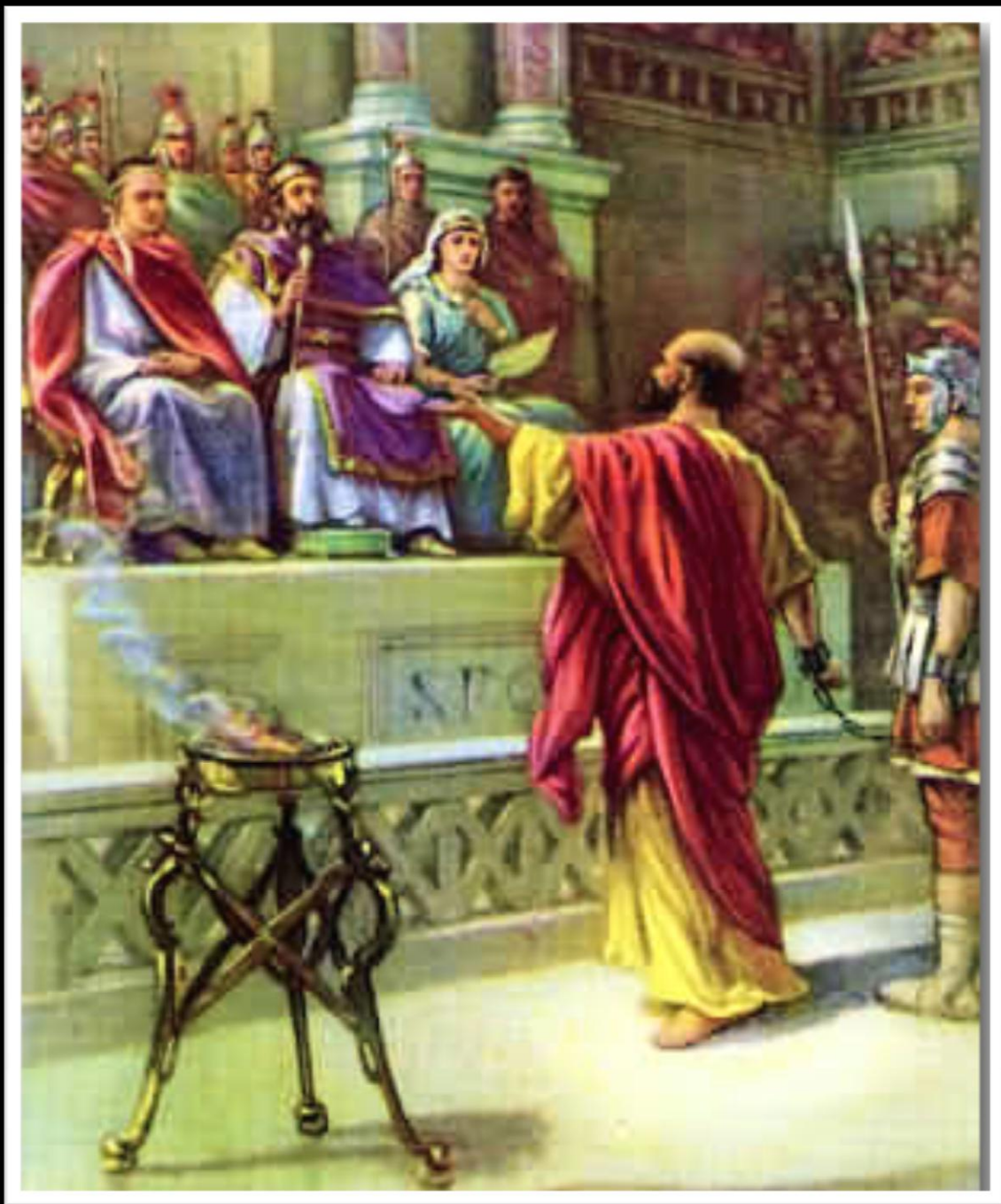
What Did Saul Do after Conversion?

- **He got baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16).**
- **This was figurative for his good conscience (I Pet 3:21).**
- **He then got busy preaching right there in Damascus.**
- **He never looked back but showed a total change.**
- **He fought a good fight, kept the faith, and finished.**

Paul Left Much out of His Testimony!

- **Jesus had no invitation of any kind to get Paul saved!**
- **Paul did not accept Jesus as Saviour or open his heart!**
- **The record is silent about getting saved or born again.**
- **These things are of paramount importance to most.**
- **If Paul neglected them, we should also neglect them.**









I Timothy 1:12

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;”

- Paul honored Jesus Christ for his ability and ministry.**
- The past tense faithfulness got Paul in the ministry.**
- Saul had been faithful in ignorance (Ac 23:1; 24:16; II Ti 1:3).**

I Timothy 1:13

“Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”

- **Paul’s life as a Jew was vicious against Jesus Christ.**
- **God showed him mercy, because he did not believe.**
- **God forgave the vicious crimes due to his ignorance.**

I Timothy 1:14

“And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

- **God’s great grace gave Paul much faith in Christ.**
- **God’s great grace gave Paul much love for Christ.**
- **Conversion like this takes exceeding abundant grace!**

I Timothy 1:15

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (I Tim 1:15).

- Paul knew Christ’s death in this world saved him.**
- This message of the gospel for the elect is glorious.**
- Paul believed by his past life to be the worst sinner.**

I Timothy 1:16

“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting” (I Tim 1:16).

- One reason God saved Paul was to encourage you!**
- If Jesus saved Paul, the worst sinner, He can save you!**
- Faith is the evidence and assurance of eternal life.**

I Timothy 1:17

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (I Tim 1:17).

- **Common for Paul, he broke into spontaneous praise!**
- **Though in a letter, he praised and ended with, Amen!**
- **Do you love to praise God and Jesus Christ like this?**





When Was Paul Saved?

- Most Christians only see one single event of salvation.
- They only think of their decision to accept Christ.
- To pressure you, they will ask, when were you saved?
- They do not see other salvations or rightly dividing.
- What did Paul say about the timing of his salvation?

Before the World Began

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (II Tim 1:9).

- Paul was saved by God’s own purpose in Jesus Christ.
- He knew this had been given to him in eternity past.
- Eternal phase – *before the world began* – phase #1.

At the Cross of Calvary

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (I Tim 1:15).

- Paul was saved by Jesus dying on the cross for him.
- When Jesus came and died in this world – 30 A.D.
- Legal phase – *at the cross of Calvary* – phase #2.

When Born Again

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).

- Paul was saved by the Holy Spirit regenerating him.
- During his life he was quickened by God (Eph 2:1-3).
- Vital phase – *at time of being born again* – phase #3.

When Converted to the Truth

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (I Tim 4:16).

- Paul was saved by believing and obeying the truth.
- This began when he met Jesus on the Damascus road.
- Practical phase – *believe and obey gospel* – phase #4.

When Glorified in Heaven

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Rom 13:11).

- Paul will be saved when Jesus raises his body to life.
- This will not take place until Jesus returns (Rom 8:23).
- Final phase – *glorified in heaven forever* – phase #5.

Conclusion (1)

- **Paul will be saved in five phases just like all the elect.**
- **Paul was born again, like Cornelius, before Damascus.**
- **God listed Cornelius's works and Paul's faithfulness.**
- **Jesus had been pricking Saul to no avail (Acts 2:47).**
- **He faithfully served God against Christ (I Ti 1:12; II Ti 1:3).**

Conclusion (2)

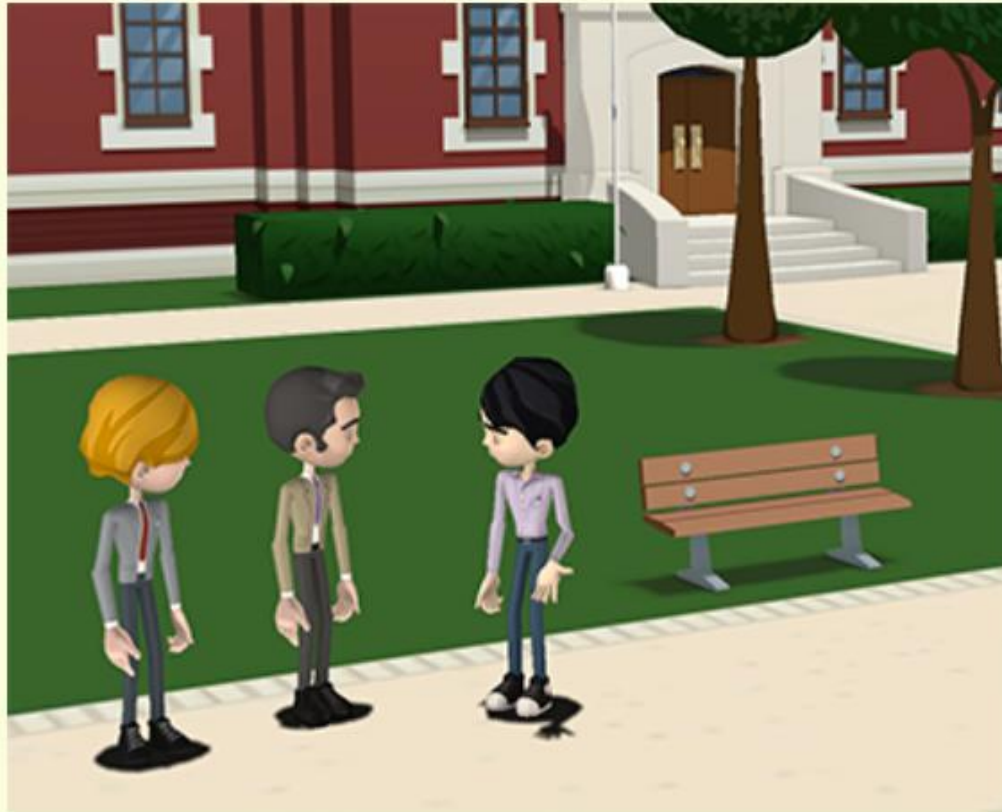
- **This is exactly like other Jews then (Rom 11:28-32; 10:1-4).**
- **Paul got unusual mercy for unbelief as a child of God.**
- **Apollos was also faithful in ignorance (Acts 18:24-28).**
- **Regenerate elect can rebel (Lot, Samson, Demas, Heb 3:12-13).**
- **Paul's zeal never changed – just the goal for his zeal!**

When Were You Saved?

- Paul's phases 1-2 and 5 are exactly identical to yours.
- Phase #3, vital salvation, is being born again by God.
- Do you have a changed life to prove regeneration?
- Phase #4, practical salvation, is obeying the gospel.
- Are you totally committed to following Jesus Christ?

Tony the Evangelist on the Five Phases of Salvation

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/salvation/animation/salvation-series.php>



For a Detailed Sermon on the Five Phases of Salvation

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