

November 18, 2018
Series: Country Roads
Part 4: Where I Found Jesus (The Damascus Road)
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1. Ephesians 2:9-10—“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

*What does the gift of God refer to in these verses—“grace,” “faith,” or “you have been saved? **(The gift of God is that “you have been saved,” which is the subject delayed by “It.” “By grace” and “through faith” is how you have been saved.**

*When we read this passage, we might assume God has prepared a specific work for us to do. Eugene Peterson, in “The Message” translates v. 10 this way: “He (God) creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.”

Do you think the good works here are general, and if so what are the kinds of good works he would want his people to do? What kind of good works would you best be suited for?

2. Acts 9:1-19 tells about the conversion of Saul (who became Paul) on the Damascus Road.

*How was Paul’s conversion extraordinary?

*How did he change as a result?

*Have you ever questioned someone’s salvation because of his or her past?

*What is your conversion or salvation story?

3. When Ananias hesitates, knowing Saul’s murderous reputation, the Lord says, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

*How much DID Paul suffer for the name of Christ?

*How do we know he thought it worth it?

*Would you want the Lord to say this about you? Have you suffered for Christ?

4. Did anything change immediately upon your conversion?

5. Have you experienced God’s continued work in your life and do you believe God will continue working on us until the end? **(In Philippians 1:6, Paul says he is “confident of this, that (God) who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”)**

6. Do you embrace both the highs and the lows of your story?

7. Who can be encouraged by your salvation story? What would you want them to know about what Jesus has done for you?