



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 4:
"The Hidden Price of Greatness"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 9:19b-30; 2 Corinthians 11:23-29;
Galatians 1:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:10-12

1. Imagine if Acts 9:16 had been written of you. What would your outlook on life be? How would you respond and why? How might this sort of suffering actually be beneficial to anyone?

2. Who were "the Jews" in Acts 9:23 and why did they want to kill or "do away" with Paul? Considering Paul's continual encounters with these threats (see also Acts 9:29), is it possible that our boldness for Christ might also lead to our endangerment? Why or why not?

3. In each of the cases where Paul experienced persecution, how did the surrounding Christian community respond? How might we as the body of Christ similarly respond to those in our community or world who experience similar persecution or hardship?

4. Now read 2 Timothy 3:10-12. What does verse 12 promise those of us who follow Jesus Christ? Have you found this to be true of your life? If not, why might that be? Who rescued Paul from his persecutions (3:11) and how does this apply to your life currently?

5. Why did Paul spend “several days” with the Christians in Damascus? Why didn’t he immediately hit the streets with the news of the gospel after he regained his eyesight (as in Acts 9:20)?

6. What else does *Galatians 1:17-18* tell us about Paul’s preparation for ministry? Why do you think he waited *three years* before even going to Jerusalem? How might Paul’s times of waiting and solitude apply to your own growth experiences as a Christian?

7. Where might God allow you to experience suffering? How would you like to respond? Do you have plans to “pay the price of solitude” this year? What steps can you take to allow for some extended alone time with God?

Memory Verses:

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

(2 Timothy 3:12, NIV)

“Now for several days he (Saul) was with the disciples who were at Damascus,”

(Acts 9:19b, NASB)