

30-
Aug 11, 57
A.M.
"A Wonderful Experience"
Scripture Lesson: - II Cor: 5: 1-10.

N. Ammon
9/7/52
A.M.

Text: - "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
II Cor: 5: 17.

Or as the 20th century version puts it,
"If anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new being! His old life has passed away; a new life had begun."

I.

Something wonderful had happened to the man who wrote the words of this text, Saul of Tarsus. Saul was brilliant, highly educated young Hebrew who hated Christ and was the chief persecutor of the Christians, arresting them and throwing them into prison and helping martyr them as in the case of the Deacon Stephen.

On his way from Jerusalem to Damascus to arrest Christians and throw them into jail a blinding flash of light knocked him to the ground and left him lying there in the road unable to see. He then heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? Who are you? he asked. "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest". Then Saul answered Lord, what will't thou have me to do?"

There on the road to Damascus something wonderful happened to Saul that,

- changed his nature from a hater to a lover of Christ.
- changed his course from his own way to Christ's way.
- changed him from a persecutor, the worst persecutor of Christ, to his chief defender.
- made him the great apostle to the Gentiles.
- made him the greatest preacher of Christ and his gospel of his day and perhaps any day.
- made him the great missionary carrying the Good News from Asia to Europe and on to Rome.

-made him the greatest expositor of the teaching of Jesus among the New T. writers.

-made him the greatest organizer of churches in the first century.

All because something wonderful happened to him on the Damascus road. He was converted. He was saved. God changed him, made a new man, a new man in Christ Jesus.

One of the cardinal truths taught in the Bible and in Christian history and in personal experience is that God can change men and make them new inside and outside. He can give them new natures, new appetites, new habits and new ambitions. He can turn them right about face and send them up life's road in the opposite direction.

That is what happened to the *Red Cop* of New York City. *they tell about* *No. 42*

That is what happened to Mary Elizabeth ~~McDonald~~ *Small*

Happy M. Donald
Dr. Walter Marshall Horton tells in his book, "A Psychological Approach to Theology" of the remarkable case of Sam Hadley. "As I sat there thinking, I seemed to feel some great and mighty presence. Tell his experience. He felt that all things had passed away and all things had become new. Yes, something wonderful happened to Sam Hadley that changed him from a helpless drunkard to the greatest soul winners of his day.

Walter Trotter

II.

beaches
The resorts and watering places make millions every year out of those who are trying to get a new lease on life. Christ alone can wipe out the past and give us a new start in life.

We read with wondering pity of poor Ponce de Leon who came seeking the fountain of youth. He did not find it. He died seeking it. Christ and Christ alone can give us immortal youth.

Poor, wealthy old women spend fancy sums to get

old-age puffs taken from beneath their eyes, the rools of fat from their cheeks and necks, their faces lifted and their skin peeled to try to get back that school girl complexion. What they need is not a new skin, but a new heart. Christ alone can give folks a new heart.

A man who had been redeemed from the very swamps of vile living and who came into a vital Christian life used to say to his pastor on Sunday night before the service began, "Preacher, tell them that they can!"

-tell them something wonderful can happen to them that will change their whole lives.

-tell them Christ can give them a new heart and a new start.

-tell them they can be delivered from every evil habit and can live victorious lives, clean, helpful, joyful, by the grace of God.

Stanley Jones says, "A fine Hindu came to me and said, 'Now don't quote Scripture to me, and don't tell me the experience of other people, but tell me simply and straightforwardly how you found Christ'. I did. He went away. The next day he came back and said, "Do you recognize me? I am sure you don't for I am a new man. Yesterday after our talk I went out to the rocks to meditate and pray and Christ came to me through the verse, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden". He came straight through in that verse!" He was all aglow. Yes, something wonderful happened out there in India that changed him inside and made him shine on the outside. He was saved.

Conclusion: - Has something wonderful happened in your life? Are you a new man, a new woman? Or are you just the same you have always been. Friend, something wonderful needs to happen to you before you can face the joys of heaven. Let it happen now while we sing. *If something wonderful has happened in your life you will want to win others & work for Him. Don't be unhappy & defeated find victory in Him today.*