

## Sermon #7

### "God's Tracking Down of Paul"

#### Acts 9

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**Introduction:** This chapter is one of the pivotal moments in the Book of Acts as it sets forth the conversion of Saul of Tarsus into Paul the Apostle! The man who many consider to be the greatest Christian of the New Testament era. But often overlooked in the story is the One who was on Saul/Paul's trail, tracking him down until the encounter of a lifetime occurs on the road to Damascus.

I don't know if you are familiar with Duane Lee Chapman, owner of Da Kine Bail Bonds in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is the self-proclaimed "*Greatest Bounty Hunter in the World.*" Six-thousand plus captures, over the past 20 years, have earned the highly intense and charismatic ex-con, and born again Christian the distinct name of "*Dog the Bounty Hunter.*" His personality, and his work have made him the most popular bounty hunter in the country.

The Lord has been tracking down this man Saul/Paul that He might save him and change him into the one we know as the great Apostle. When it comes to God on a person's trail, the person quickly discovers that they can run, but they can't hide.

This appears to be the case as we come to Acts 9. Up to this point in his life Saul has been running from God, only to discover that He is actually going to run into God on the road to Damascus.

The conversion of Saul is truly one of the most momentous moments of history. **A. C. Gaebelin**, one of the editors of the Scofield Reference Bible, said, "*The conversion of this great persecutor by the risen and glorified Lord to*

*be an Apostle is the greatest event recorded in Acts, next to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.*"

**F. F. Bruce** summed it up, "*We cannot imagine the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire, and around the world, without the work of Paul.*"

In Acts 9, there are 2 main characters in this classic drama. One is Saul of Tarsus; and, the other is God the Bounty Hunter. Let's take a look at the story and see which character prevails. As we look at the life of Saul, we see:

#### Outline

##### 1. The Past that Ruined Him!

A) *A Merciless Man*

B) *A Ruthless Man*

##### 2. The Power that Reached Him!

A) *The Light He could not Evade*

B) *The Lord He could not Avoid*

##### 3. The Principle that Restricted Him!

A) *Directed His Ministry*

B) *Defined His Ministry*