



WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill
 WORSHIP VIDEO Praise him you Heavens
 PRAYER
 UPDATES Pastor Phill
 MEDIA One road to God
 WORSHIP VIDEO..... This I believe (The Creed)
 BIBLE READING Acts 9:1-22
 MESSAGE Taught by Pastor Phill
 WORSHIP VIDEO..... It was finished upon that Cross



1. The message of the church is a message for the

'The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.' Acts 5:41-42 NIV

2. The message of the church is a message that can transform

'And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.' Acts 8:1 NIV

'Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.' Acts 8:2-3 NIV

'Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.' Acts 9:1-2 NIV

'As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."' Acts 9:3-6 NIV

3. The message of the church is a message shared by unlikely

'In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.' Acts 9:10-11 NIV

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "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." Acts 9:13-16 NIV

'Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who caused havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.' Acts 9:19-22 NIV

4. The message of the church is a message that is profoundly _____.

'Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.' 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 NIV

Christ _____ for our sin, he was _____,
he was _____, and he _____.



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. With which character from the Bible do you most identify yourself?
2. If you had fifteen seconds to explain the Christian message, what would you say? One minute? Five minutes?
3. Compare Acts 8:1 with Acts 9:20. Discuss what Paul would have been like pre-conversion and what he was like post-conversion.
4. How does Paul's conversion encourage you as you share the gospel with people who seem uninterested or so far from accepting Christ?
5. Read Acts 9:1-6. Saul (Paul) experiences a dramatic conversion. Did your relationship with God spark in one climactic moment or was it a more gradual process?
6. Much of the Book of Acts chronicles Paul's missionary travels in an attempt to spread the message of Jesus Christ to unreached regions. Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone who had never heard the message of Christianity before? Describe that experience.
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-10. Paul clarifies the gospel message very succinctly. Why do Christians often add additional "requirements" to that gospel message?

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