

# GETTING PAST YOUR PAST

## At The Crossroads – Part 1

May 18, 2014

**Jeremiah 6:16 (NIV)** *“This is what the Lord says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.’”*

**Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)** *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

### ROADBLOCK #1 – Your PAST

#### Three Phases of Saul’s Past...

#### 1. It was dark and SHAMEFUL.

**Acts 7:57b-58; 8:1 (NLT)** *“They rushed at him<sup>58</sup> and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul<sup>8:1</sup> Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.”*

**Acts 8:3 & 9:1a (NLT)** *“Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. <sup>9:1</sup>Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers.”*

**Acts 26:10b-11 (NLT)** *Saul said, “...I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. <sup>11</sup>Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.”*

#### 2. It included a genuine CONVERSION.

**Acts 9:26 (NLT)** *“When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer!”*

#### 3. It resulted in an amazing TRANSFORMATION.

**Acts 9:20-21a (NLT)** *“And immediately he (Saul) began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is indeed the Son of God!’<sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed. ‘Isn’t this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus’ followers in Jerusalem?’”*

**1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT)** *“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them all. <sup>16</sup>But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life.”*

**Romans 4:7-8 (NLT)** *“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”*

#### PRACTICAL ACTION STEPS...

- **ASK God to forgive your past.**

**1 John 1:9 (NIV)** *“If we confess our sins He (God) is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

- **TALK to a follower of Jesus about your past.**

**James 5:16a (NIV)** *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed.”*

- **SEEK further help to grow past your past.**

**Philippians 1:6 (NLT)** *“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”*