Celebrating Tabernacles Today

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 Every believer (Jew and Gentile) can celebrate all that Tabernacles signifies by laying hold of truth revealed to Saul of Tarsus (Paul) in his call, commission, commandments from Jesus, and the promise to show him "the Just One."

THE CALL: Saul, Saul

 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:1-6a)

THE CALL: Saul, Saul

- Saul encountering Jesus is intensely personal.
- Jesus is alive! To persecute Christians is to persecute Jesus.
- Electing love and the grace of God can touch and transform even the chief of sinners.

• Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (Acts 9:6b-9)

 So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' (Acts 22:10)

- I was blind, but now I see. Jesus is the Light shining into the darkness.
- It is time to "Arise and go..."

But the Lord said to him [Ananias],
 "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine
 to bear My name before Gentiles, kings,
 and the children of Israel. For I will
 show him how many things he must
 suffer for My name's sake." (Acts 9:15,
 16)

 Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (Acts 22:14-16)

- Receive sight
- Be filled with the Holy Ghost.
- Be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.
- Be the chosen vessel of Christ as He has declared you to be, His instrument, His implement.
- Bear the Name of Jesus before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

- Know the will of the God of our fathers who has chosen you.
- See the Just One.
- Hear the Voice of His mouth.
- Be Jesus' witness to all people of what you (Paul) have seen and heard.

- Open the eyes of Jews and Gentiles that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.
- Be obedient to the call, commission, and the commandments of your mission, to the Voice of God's mouth.
- Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus for a purpose

- Acts 26:16-19
- But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen Me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. ESV

- I will show him (Paul) how many things he must suffer for My Name's sake.
- I will appear to you.
- I will deliver you from your people and from the Gentiles.

- Do not frustrate the grace of God.
 Salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the Promised One/Messiah, not by the Law/law-keeping.
- In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all true believers are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28.

- Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles today means coming out of the shadow, out of the darkness, into the radiant glory of the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We are to pass through the season of repentance and redemption to rest and rejoice in the dwelling place and refuge of the Almighty. (Isaiah 4:4-6)

- Tabernacles, therefore, is a feast of unity, a feast of ingathering, a feast of rest, and a feast of glory. It is a feast of restoration.
- "Your life is hid with Christ in God.
 When Christ, who is our life, shall
 appear, then shall you also appear with
 Him in Glory." Colossians 3.3, 4.

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- You can find this message on <u>www.marycraig.org</u>. Our thanks to Betty Patten who prepared the PowerPoint presentation. A "Prayer to Open the Eyes of the Blind" is also available on <u>www.marycraig.org</u>.
- Let us continually celebrate Jesus Christ, who is our life. Amen.
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