

SESSION 6
CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SAUL – ENCOUNTERED BY CHRIST

A. Dr. Scott Hahn

B. “Saint Paul: Persecutor to Apostle” Part 1

C. Ongoing conversion

III. PAUL – TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST

A. Acts: Framework for much of New Testament – Paul’s letters

B. Philippians 2:5-11

Light the Way

C. “Saint Paul: Persecutor to Apostle” Part 2

D. Paul’s new view of God

E. Paul’s new view of himself

1. *“Paul, more than anyone else, has shown us what man really is, and in what our nobility consists... He summed up his attitude in the words: ‘I forget what is behind me and push on to what lies ahead.’ ...The one thing he feared, indeed dreaded, was to offend God; nothing else could sway him. Therefore, the only thing he really wanted was always to please God. The most important thing of all to him, however was that he knew himself to be loved by Christ.”* (Homily by St. John Chrysostom, Office of Readings for Feast of Conversion of Paul, Apostle, January 25)

F. Three “I am...” statements:

IV. APOSTLE – SENT BY CHRIST

A. Evangelization

- B. *The Church is an evangelizer, but she begins by being evangelized herself. She is the community of believers, the community of hope lived and communicated, the community of brotherly love, and she needs to listen unceasingly to what she must believe, to her reasons for hoping, to the new commandment of love.* (Pope Paul VI Evangelii Nuntiandi (from section 15))

V. CONCLUSION

- A. *For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*
(Ephesians 3:14-21)
- B. *God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.* (The Mission of My Life – Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman)

