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Community Bible Experience

Read Big. Read Well. Read Together.

A revolutionary way to gather together and read the Bible,
encouraging regular, meaningful engagement with God's Word.

Part 1 – Sunday 26th April 2020

SO WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD?

**GOD CAN WORK IN THE MOST
CHALLENGING PEOPLE**

Acts 8:1–3; 9:1–2.



HOW CAN THIS APPLY TO US?

- DON'T WRITE YOURSELF OFF



HOW CAN THIS APPLY TO US?

- **DON'T WRITE YOURSELF OFF**
- **DON'T WRITE OTHERS OFF**



HOW CAN THIS APPLY TO US?

- DON'T WRITE YOURSELF OFF
- DON'T WRITE OTHERS OFF
- DON'T WRITE GOD OFF –
“WHY DO YOU PERSECUTE *ME*?” (ACTS 9:4).



GOD DOES NOT ALWAYS ANSWER PRAYERS THE WAY WE WANT HIM TO. HE IS NOT A SUGAR DADDY CATERING TO OUR EVERY WHIM. THE CONSISTENT WITNESS OF SCRIPTURES SAYS:

- **Deuteronomy 32:4** *“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”*
- **Psalms 103:8** *“The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love”*
- **Nehemiah 9:31** *“in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”*
- **Ephesians 2:4-5** *“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”*

So what do we learn about God?

GOD CAN WORK IN THE MOST CHALLENGING PEOPLE
Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2.

**GOD CAN WORK IN THE MOST CHALLENGING
CIRCUMSTANCES**

Acts 8:3-4; 14:22; 2 Corinthians 11:24-31



Paul tells his own story recorded by Luke in Acts, Paul recounts them in **2 Corinthians 11:24-31**

- *5 times gets 39 lashes*
- *3 times beaten with rods*
- *3 times shipwrecked*
- *constantly on the move*
- *often gone without sleep*
- *cold & naked*



2 Corinthians 4:8-10

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”



“The first thing God asks of us is control, and the last thing we want to give up is control.”



CONCLUSION:

**GOD CAN WORK IN THE MOST CHALLENGING PEOPLE
AND GOD CAN WORK THROUGH THE MOST
CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Acts 20:23-24

“I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”

