

GOD CALLED BY HIS GRACE

ACTS 9:10-19

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: My great grandfather, when asked to pray, declined, by saying “let the preacher do it. That’s what we pay him for.” This has been an erroneous mindset for ages—J. Simpson

A LAYMAN. Ananias was not an apostle or church officer but was used by Jesus to begin the ministry of one of the most significant men in the history of mankind. (**Acts 9:10-14, fn 9:13, 14, Romans 15:4, Romans 12:3-8, fn 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:1, fn 4:1, 2, I Peter 2:4, 5, 9, 10, fn 2:9, II Corinthians 5:18-21, fn 5:20**) *What is the significance of the Lord using a layman to call an apostle?*

A MURDERER. Saul, a tormentor of the early church, acknowledged that he led followers of Christ to their deaths. But God, in His grace, forgave him as he called on his name. He was God’s chosen instrument to bring the message of salvation to even us. (**Acts 9:15, 16, Acts 22:2-4, 16, Romans 10:8-12, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17, Psalms 103:12, fn 103:12, Isaiah 1:18, fn 1:18, Isaiah 43:25, fn 43:25**) *How is it possible for you to have peace with God?*

AN APOSTLE. According to Gruden, the two qualifications for apostleship were (1) having seen Jesus after His resurrection (being a witness of His resurrection) and (2) having been specifically commissioned by Christ as His apostle. Wayne Gruden, Systematic Theology, p. 906. (**Acts 9:17-19, Galatians 1:1, 11-17, fn 1:1[2nd], fn 1:11ff, Romans 15:15-19**) *What has God called you to do? Explain.*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?

