

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON "I'VE GOT TOO MUCH BAGGAGE"

Bert asked the question if we can afford to lug our baggage along.

My response to that is 'It depends on where you are going'. I once travelled to Cambodia with just one change of clothing. I washed the clothes I was wearing during shower.

If we are heading towards heaven, the exhortation is clear - let us lay aside every weight that hinders and every sin that so easily entangles (Heb 12:1).

The race is too important for you not to finish.

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WARMING UP

1. Was there an instance where you had excess baggage during check-in? What did you do - repack or discard?
2. What is your response when people misunderstand you?

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Acts 9:1-9, 26:1-11 - Vertical Component (Christ removed our baggage)

3. What was Saul's conviction about his former way of life (Acts 26: 9)? What was his motivation in persecuting the Christians (Acts 26:11)?
4. Who was the only Person who can bring release to Saul (Acts 26:15)?

Read Acts 9:10-31 - Horizontal Component (Accepting who Jesus has accepted)

5. What was Ananias' response to Saul before (Acts 9:13, 14) and after (Acts 9:17) what Jesus has said?
6. What made the disciples changed their mind about Saul/Paul?

Read Acts 26:12-23- The Baggage Exchange

7. What did Jesus give to Paul to replace all his baggage (Acts 26:16-18)?
8. Was Paul obedient to his new calling (Acts 26:19-23, 1 Tim 1:12)?

MOVING FORWARD

'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come' 2 Corin 5:17

The apostle Paul's transformation was a stark contrast from the old life of rage, fury, and misplaced zeal to a new life given to the purposes of God, resulting in untold blessings to many in the kingdom of God.

Continue to walk faithfully before the Lord.

LIFE TOGETHER

Continuing on the theme of Life Alive, the Spirit-led community is a God-pleasing community.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading of BCEC as we move to a new premises and that we be the salt and light in the new location.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

Read Acts 9:1-9, 26:1-11 - Vertical Component (Christ removed our baggage)

3. What was Saul's conviction about his former way of life (Acts 26: 9)?
What was his motivation in persecuting the Christians (Acts 26:11)?

Saul was convinced that he was doing the right thing in persecuting the Christians. In his own testimony, Saul admitted to this raging fury as his motivation.

4. Who was the only Person who can bring release to Saul (Acts 26:15)?

Jesus

Read Acts 9:10-31 - Horizontal Component (Accepting who Jesus has accepted)

5. What was Ananias' response to Saul before (Acts 9:13, 14) and after (Acts 9:17) what Jesus has said?

Ananias was initially sceptical about the grace of God shown to Saul as he was aware of Saul's former way of living. But a word from the living Lord was more than enough that Ananias addressed Saul as 'Brother Saul'.

6. What made the disciples changed their mind about Saul/Paul?

Saul exhibited a real change in his life. People are more likely to believe us when they see a change in our lives.

Read Acts 26:12-23- The Baggage Exchange

7. What did Jesus give to Paul to replace all his baggage (Acts 26:16-18)?

Jesus charged Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles (Remove and replace principle).

8. Was Paul obedient to his new calling (Acts 26:19-23, 1 Tim 1:12)?

It was Paul's obedience to his new calling that eventually convinced the other disciples that his conversion was genuine.