

E-Series

GPS—Recalculating (cont.)



*1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.**3** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" **5** "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. **6** "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." **7** The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see*

*anyone. **8** Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. **9** For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.*

***10** In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. **11** The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. —Acts 9:1-11*

Jonah wasn't the only person to get radically recalculated in Scripture. So did Saul of Tarsus.

On Sunday I mentioned that, according to the ancient Jewish historian Josephus, Tarsus and Tarshish are the same place. This is corroborated by many modern historians. Saul of Tarsus...Saul of Tarshish. The point? Saul started out in the exact place to which Jonah tried to flee, as far from God's will as possible.

Saul wasn't geographically outside the will of God; but, his actions were as far from God's heart as they could have been. He was hunting down, persecuting, even killing Christians. When God's Positioning System radically re-orient's his life, it wasn't Saul's geographical direction that was altered. It was Saul himself.

Recalculating. "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Saul gets grabbed by Jesus. The result, the change is so dramatic Saul's name had to be changed. Saul, the murderer, was put to death. Paul, the Apostle, was raised to life. Recalculating.

What part of your life needs recalculating? What is outside the will of God? What habits need to be put to death?

Trying to Travel Straight Street,
Pastor Michael