

Renovating Your Life

By Justin Morton

As many of you are aware, a great deal of renovation has taken place around our building lately. For instance, the bathrooms down the hallway were renovated, the library was renovated, and it wasn't long ago that the auditorium was renovated. Whether it is at home or someplace like a church building, renovations are an important part of improvement. Just as we look for things in our homes to renovate, we should look for things in our lives that need renovation as well.

The apostle Paul was a man who understood the importance of renovation in one's life. When we are first introduced to Saul, he is standing by in support of the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58 – Acts 8:1). From that point forward, Saul went about *ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison* (Acts 8:3). When he gave his defense before Agrippa, Paul told of how he was hostile toward Christians, even casting his vote against them when they were being put to death (Acts 26:9-11). If there was ever a person who needed to renovate his life, it was Saul. After all, in his own mind, he was the chief of all sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).

The wonderful thing about Saul is he took the time to renovate his life. He was convicted while on the road to Damascus, and later baptized for the forgiveness of his sins (Acts 9:18). Immediately, we learn, *he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues* (Acts 9:20). Saul's name was later changed to Paul, and he would go on to become one of the greatest preachers the world has ever known.

Friends, what about us? Are there things in our lives which need renovation? Are we the kind of people God would have us to be? Are we God-seekers or people-pleasers? Are we letting our light shine or hiding our light so others can't see? Are we fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, covetous, liars, drunkards, revilers, gluttonous, prideful or murderers? Are we people who have not given our full hearts to God? If there are things which need renovation, why not begin the process today? Just as a home or church building can be renovated and restored to something better, our life can be renovated to one which resembles a disciple of Jesus Christ. Let's begin our renovation today!