

**A Time to Choose**

**Acts 9:1-9**

We admit that we were powerless over our problems-that our lives have become unmanageable.

There are important moments in life that can change our destiny. These are often times when we are confronted with how powerless we are over the events of our lives. These moments can either destroy us or forever set the course of our lives in a much better direction.

Saul of Tarsus (later called Paul; see 13:9) had such a moment. After Jesus' ascension, Saul took it upon himself to rid the world of Christians. As he headed to Damascus on this mission, "a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me? . . . I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink" (Acts 9:3-6, 8-9).

Saul was suddenly confronted with the fact that his life wasn't as perfect as he had thought. Self-righteousness had been his trademark. By letting go of his illusions of power, however, he became one of the most powerful men ever-the apostle Paul. When we are confronted with the knowledge that our lives aren't under our control, we have a choice. We can continue in denial and self-righteousness, or we can face the fact that we have been blind to some important issues. If we become willing to be led into recovery and into a whole new way of life, we began will find true power.



**Examine & Repent**

**Acts 8:18-25**



When Simon the sorcerer saw the ministry of Peter and John, he offered to buy the secret of their power. This showed Peter that Simon did not understand his relationship with God; he only sought God for what he might get out of the relationship. Perhaps he wanted to gain back the prestige he had lost when Philip came to town (see 8:9-13). Peter warned Simon that he needed to examine himself and repent. This problem of impure motives also applies to recovery. 2 If we are in recovery just to look good, we are in it for the wrong reason. When we look to God is for help, we are making his will our own. We succeed in recovery only as we submit completely to God's will for us.

**Helping**

**Acts 9:10-16**

During Saul's intense self-examination, God sent Ananias to befriend him, pray for him, and restore his sight. Ananias was afraid at first because he wasn't sure that Saul had really changed. When he met with Saul, however, Ananias discovered that no one is beyond God's help. By coming to help Saul, Ananias discovered a truth that we learn in recovery. When we reach out to others and share the Good News, God not only uses us to help others, he also strengthens our own faith

**The Need for Support**

**Acts 9:20-25**

Saul stayed with the Christians in Damascus for a few days and shared the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, demonstrating that his transformation was real. Both Jews and Christians were astounded at the changes in Saul. The Jews turned against him and plotted to kill him, but his new Christian friends helped him escape. We may also experience opposition from our old friends when we enter the recovery process. They may feel guilty about their own dependency, or they may be afraid they will lose a friend. Whatever the reason, our old friends may try to thwart TJ our recovery. This is where our new support groups take on an essential role, protecting and guiding us through these difficult times.

**Eventual Acceptance**

**Acts 9:26-30**

Saul returned to Jerusalem and tried to meet with the Christian believers there. He immediately met skepticism. They couldn't believe that such a cruel enemy could have changed Jud so quickly. In time Saul proved his sincerity and was accepted. When we enter recovery, we may meet skepticism for a while. Friends and family members may turn away. In time, however, if we continue to follow God's will for our lives and seek to make amends, broken relationships will 101 begin to heal. Our broken relationships, like our addictions, took time to develop. Recovery will also take time.

**Is Your Live Unmanageable?**

Is your life truly unmanageable? Ask if any of these statements apply to you.

- The more we try to control our behavior, the more out of control we become.
- We think the people around us make life unmanageable, but the more we try to change others the more unmanageable our lives become. We are powerless over other people and cannot change them.
- We are oversensitive and touchy about what others say. In our self-centeredness we take the everyday occurrences and actions of other people too personally and too seriously.
- We do not talk to others because we are sure they would not want to talk to us.
- We are unable to accomplish ordinary tasks. • We have so many problems in our lives we do not know where to begin.
- We feel different and alone.

Our lives become unmanageable for a variety of reasons. Loneliness, shame, insecurity, shyness, or low self-esteem are often among them. Other factors may include fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of not belonging, fear of being different, feelings of inadequacy, rejection of self, self-centeredness, self-denial, or fear of involvement. We may be experiencing life through a haze of hostility and resentment because of past traumas.

## CALENDAR

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	TBD
Wednesday	10:30 am	Breakfast with the Seniors	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building until May 17 <sup>th</sup>
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building

May 17<sup>th</sup> **Wednesday Small Group** moving to Ella Smith's house.

May 18-20<sup>th</sup> **Montana Men's Retreat:** "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19, with a late fee of \$15 after May 10th. Make checks out to Great Falls Church of Christ and mail them to Great Falls Church of Christ, 1300 6th Street NW, Great Falls, MT 59404. See Bob Queenan with questions.

May 20<sup>th</sup> **Senior Breakfast** CANCELLED (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month.)

June 3<sup>rd</sup> **Family Days in the Park** – 11:00 am – 7:00 pm. Bring games, sports equipment, and food is picnic style. Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)

June 4<sup>th</sup> **Family Days in the Park** – 10:30 am – 5:30 pm. Worship starts at 10:30, then a potluck, then games and fun –Sunnyside Park (next to EIRMC)

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> **Area Singing** with the Pocatello Church of Christ. Details to follow.

## PRAYERS

- For Gary Brush, being treated for cancer.
- For Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- For Bobbie Knight. Bobbie Knight, IDOC # 113912, PWCC - 2 C, 1451 Fore Rd, Pocatello 83204.
- For Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- For Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- For our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

## LEADERSHIP

**Web Page:** [idahofallschurchofchrist.org](https://idahofallschurchofchrist.org)

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# The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

## Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.

The rich and poor  
have this in  
common: The  
Lord made them  
both.

Proverbs 22:2

### Meditation for Today

Character is developed by the daily discipline of duties done. Be obedient to the heavenly vision and take the straight way. Do not fall into the error of calling "Lord, Lord," and doing not the things that should be done. You need a life of prayer and meditation, but you must still do your work in the busy ways of life. The busy person is wise to rest and wait patiently for God's guidance. If you are obedient to the heavenly vision, you can be at peace.

I pray that I may be obedient to the heavenly vision.  
I pray if I fall, I will pick myself up and go on.

Online Bulletin is available at our website <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite>