

Acts 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Analysis

Immediately after conversion, Saul 'preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.' The content of Paul's earliest preaching - Christ's deity - remained central throughout his ministry. The synagogues were the very places he had intended to arrest Christians; now he proclaimed Christ there. This demonstrates genuine conversion's fruit: immediate witness and transformed priorities. Reformed theology emphasizes that saving faith naturally produces confession and witness (Romans 10:9-10). Paul's message that Jesus is 'the Son of God' declared Christ's divine nature and Messiahship.

Historical Context

This preaching occurred shortly after Paul's conversion, likely within days or weeks. His proclamation in Damascus's synagogues would have shocked those who knew his mission. Paul later spent time in Arabia (Galatians 1:17) before returning to Damascus.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why is immediate public confession of Christ a mark of genuine conversion?
2. What does Paul's synagogue preaching teach about evangelistic strategy and boldness?
3. How is Christ's identity as 'Son of God' central to the gospel message?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εὐθέως ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς ἐκήρυξσεν τὸν
And straightway in the synagogues he preached G3588
G2532 G2112 G1722 G4864 G2784 G3588

Χριστὸν, ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ νίος τοῦ θεοῦ
Christ that he is the Son of God G3588 G5547 G3754 G3778 G2076 G5207 G3588 G2316

Additional Cross-References

John 20:28 (References God): And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Galatians 2:20 (References Christ): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.