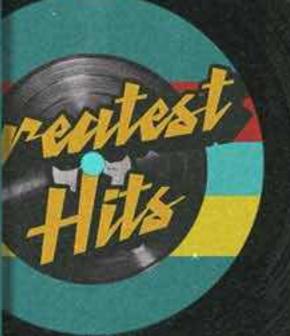
GREATEST HITS





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I Saw The Light

Hank Williams, Sr.

Saul of Tarsus

Nazarene: The one they hung on the cross

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Saul thought... he was doing the right thing!

Saul was a misled, religious zealot. A violent man. Really, really, really scary.

If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods"

...gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), do not yield to them or listen to them. Show them no pity. Do not spare them or shield them.

You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people.

Stone them to death, because they tried to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

But then... something happened.

Saul saw the light! Everything changed, including his name: Paul.

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.

"And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

...Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 9:31 NIV

"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God."

Philippians 3:7-14

Something happened.

Paul saw the light!

Who we are matters.
Who you are matters.
Your influence matters.

Your past, your indescretions, your sins, your shortcomings, your misunderstandings, your self-perception, your family history, your misunderstandings...

They do not matter!

What matters?

Have you seen the light?

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should remain in darkness.

Paul was asked how to be saved...

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

...you "are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Have you seen the light?