

**McGregor Baptist Church**

**07/15/84**

**John 9: 8ff**

**"WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET SAVED"**

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**Intro:**

**About ten years ago, the so-called "God-Is- Dead" Movement gave way to the "Jesus movement." Young people who formerly had no interest in God – many were on dope and were rebels from society – suddenly got turned-on to Jesus. They became clean-faced, smiling, radiant, helpful, obedient to their parents. They carried their Bibles everywhere and spent most of their spare time witnessing and studying. It was amazing!**

**Of course, it wasn't surprising to me. You see, I got into the Jesus movement in 1947 and I've been fired-up ever since.**

**What really was surprising was the way everyone else reacted. You'd think the whole town would be thrilled that so many people were now a part of the solution instead of being a part of the problem. You'd think parents of former dope users would thank God and sigh with relief. You'd think there would be applause and cheers on every hand. Let me read to you some of the surprising reactions that these young Christians got.**

**(From "The Groovy Christians of Rye, N.Y."-Life 5/14/71)**

**A good many parents in Rye, N.Y., are bewildered. The sociology professor, the businessman, the Sunday School teacher, the banker, the editor, the travel agency lady, and a number of others are bewildered because their children have become Christians, turned-on to Jesus. Parents aren't sure whether to be enchanted or appalled. "Sometimes I almost wish they would go back to something simple like smoking a little grass," says one mother. "Drugs I can understand, but this is creepy!" "Radiant " is the word everybody keeps using to describe these kids. Yet, parents are dubious. One mother**

said: "We treat our son as if he were recovering from dangerous illness." "It's embarrassing and awkward," says a father, "to have my own children greet me by saying 'God bless you.' "Yeah," adds another mother, "especially when you haven't even sneezed!" Only one church in town has received the group with enthusiasm.

I'm sure that such a reaction to the joyful announcement that "I'm saved" was one of the last things these young Christians expected! And yet, it is not too different from the reaction that many other Christians have received in other generations.

In fact, it is very much like the reactions to the man in our Bible story for today. Here he was, born blind, a beggar, a negative drain on society, a heartbreak to his parents. Then Jesus came and saved him. Not only was his soul saved, but his body was healed. He got up from his begging spot, hurrying here and there, sharing the good news, "I can see. I can see. Now I can live a meaningful and productive life." How great!

And, yet, notice how his good news was received. Neighbors didn't believe it was the same man ( vs. 8). His mother and dad got scared of what it might do to their social statue ( vs. 22). And the local ministerial association suspected him and practically put him on trial, finally insulting and humiliating him.

Some of us can relate very closely to one or all of these reactions from our personal experiences. Some may be surprised and others even a little discouraged by it. And we wish we could ask: Is this what I can expect when I get saved? Just what can somebody expect when they turn to Jesus to be their personal Savior?

That's a fair question, and this chapter of God's Word gives a pretty complete answer. Look at them with me.

**1      If you accept Christ, you can expect some CURIOSITY FROM OLD ACQUAINTANCES.**  
**(vs. 8-12)**

**“Isn't this so and so? I can't believe it's the same person! He looks the same, but he acts so differently.” Or “what happened to you?”**

**I'll never forget when I went home from college right after I had been saved. My old friends seemed so amazed at my new interests and new direction and new lifestyle. Some asked: “What's wrong? Did you become a Baptist or something radical like that?” I answered No!” (Really, I didn't choose to become a Baptist until 8 years afterwards).**

**Most wondered: “Are you going to become a preacher?” “-- as if anyone who has a change in their lives has to be going into the professional ministry like someone going into a monastery or something. Again, I said No!” It was 8 years later that I felt called into the full-time ministry. I had determined to live for God and I found a new direction and new interests long before I thought of being a preacher. Listen, my friend, I would be doing a lot of the same things if I were a butcher, baker, or a candlestick maker. Seeking first the kingdom of God, trying to win people to Christ and laying up treasures above, and trying to walk in the light of righteousness instead of the darkness of sin are things I have tried to do all along, just because I love Jesus and appreciate His dying to save me!**

**But you may as well not expect old acquaintances to grasp this. It will not make sense to them. They will always be trying to figure out your “angle.” They will judge you by themselves. Don't be upset by it. It's really a compliment. What would worry me would be if they could see no difference!**

**That curiosity is part of the “bait” God uses to help us become “fishers of men.”**

**And don't wear a chip on your shoulder. Some are just seeking or testing your genuineness when they seem to give you a hard time.**

**11 If you accept Christ, you can also expect a certain amount of SUSPICION FROM SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS CROWD. (vs.13-16)**

**Often when you return to your home church or go to some church in your community with the good news that you have been “saved” or “born again,” you may find a rather cool response or even suspicion.**

**I remember this reaction. I went to my home church, all bubbly and positive, testifying that “once I was blind but now I can see” the light. Even my Pastor seemed not too overjoyed. He said, “Fine, Fine,” but you could tell that he was patronizing me. Later, he put me under the third degree about the kind of place where I had learned all this new religion.**

**As I'm older now, I can understand some of this reaction. In a way, he may have felt on the spot. After all the years I had sat in his services, why had he not gotten through to me like the preacher who finally did? It's a lot like the Bible story. Here they passed this beggar on the street for years. And suddenly, this total stranger, this Jesus, comes along and gives him his sight. It may have made them embarrassed and defensive that they had not been able to do it.**

**In this church, we try week after week to help people to “see the light,” and, yet some don't. Then later God may use a stranger to get it across to them. If so, God help me to rejoice with them and thank God that somebody finally reached them. Let's never forget that, in God's work, we don't work on a commission. It's a team effort: one**

**“plants” the seed, another “waters” it by prayer a cultivation, another may actually “reap the harvest” But all have a part in the rejoicing!**

**Of course, let's face it, the religious leaders in the story did not believe in Jesus nor in Him saving power. Sad to say, there are many religious leaders and people today who do not believe either. Naturally, they will be suspicious of another one who has experienced salvation.**

**Much “religion” is a lot of formalities to practiced, a system of beliefs to be learned, basic code of conduct, mixed in with a lot of social contacts. Above all, no one is to make waves rock the boat at all. Now if you drop someone in the middle of that who has come into a personal relationship with Jesus and who is motivated by Him, love to build his whole life around pleasing his new-found Lord, I'll guarantee you, he will make waves in a lot of churches. And he will be dealt with either outwardly or subtly before he can rock the boat.**

**That's what, I really believe, made my pastor so suspicious of me. He didn't believe in the Bible or salvation. Someone asked him if the Bible were inspired. He said, “All good books are inspired. And if he really believed in salvation, why did he never preach about it? If a man believes that there is a heaven to be gained and an everlasting hell to be shunned, how can he keep his mouth shut about it for 52 weeks a year? That's why I finally became a Baptist! They seemed to preach about the thing Christ had done my life.**

**Now it is true that I may have been a little hyper (I still am, thank God, after 38 years!) and had a lot to learn. The man in the story did not even understand that Jesus was the Son of God (vs. 35-28). We all have a lot to learn and a lot of refinement to be achieved. But we can't do it very well in an atmosphere of suspicion.**

**God help us, at McGregor, to give these new Christians all the encouragement we can. Then we will earn the opportunity to guide and develop them into mature and effective workers for Christ.**

**A third thing we might expect when we get saved is FEAR FROM OUR FAMILIES (vs. 18-22).**

**It does seem hard to believe, after watching their blind son walking around seeing and normal and happy after so many years of sorrow, that the over-riding emotion of the mother and father was fear! And yet, this is the way it can happen today. I read you about the parents in New York. I can tell you about others in Fort Myers. It doesn't make sense until you see that these parents are afraid. They are so afraid for themselves that they can't be happy that their child has found the joy of salvation.**

**Just what are families afraid of? Some are afraid of their social status and what their friends will think if they learn that their son is a religious fanatic. That was the case here. Look at vs. 22. He's old enough to speak for himself. "These words spoke his parents because they feared the Jews." I believe lost parents or nominally religious parents can be embarrassed when we find Christ. And though they love us, they are afraid. People are so concerned about being popular and well-spoken of. Talk about peer pressure on youth! There is peer pressure on every age group. I truly believe that, next to ignorance of the plan of salvation, fear of losing face is the biggest factor which keeps people from being saved! But I always say, if you are going to lose friends over become a Christian they weren't very real friends to begin with!**

**Perhaps parents are afraid for the child's well-being (vs. 22b). These were afraid their son might be "put out of the synagogue." Parents fear**

**that their children may become wall-flowers, lose popularity, might not have as bright and promising futures and as high-paying jobs, if they become dedicated Christians. Well, don't be afraid, parents. They have a Father now who can take care of them long after you are dead and gone!**

**Some are even afraid that the child's relationship to Christ may change the family lifestyle. One year, two brothers came to Vacation Bible School. They accepted Christ one night. Now, believe me, we never mentioned a thing all week about drinking alcoholic beverages. But the saved kids asked their dad not to drink so much. Man, he hit the ceiling and forbid them to ever come back to that meddling Baptist Church again!**

**It's sad, but some parents react in fear when we are saved. Just try not to react back. Be sweet. Be happy in Jesus. Try to be consistent. Try not to be a know-it-all or come on too strong in your own family. In time, you may be the "little child who leads" them to Christ.**

**But what if my child claims to find Christ in a group that seems a little far out and extreme? Be glad that he has found Christ. Christ and time will bring him back to the middle-of-the-road. You can always cool down a fanatic, but you can't ever heat up a corpse. Be happy for them.**

**But be true to yourself. You don't have to go in with them in their group, if you do not feel right about it. You can worship in your way and they in theirs and agree together in your loyalty and love of Christ.**

**When we accept Jesus as Saviour, we might also except some QUESTIONS WE CANNOT ANSWER (Read vs. 13-17, 25-26).**

**How does salvation work? I couldn't explain it when I was first saved, I'm still searching for**



**adequate words. It is too wonderful for words and stretches the limits of our comprehension. But it is real!**

**Listen, you and I don't have to have all the answers. God never told us to defend the faith. All He told us to do was to be "ready at any time to give to any man a reason for the hope that lies with in you."**

**If a person just wants to argue, like they did in vs. 16, you can't answer them anyway! But no one can argue with your testimony. I like what the man said in vs. 25, "One thing I do know, that, where as I was blind, now I see." No one can argue when you say that you are satisfied. I even like to witness by saying, "May I share with you something that has made my life wonderful!" But I don't pretend to have the answers to all the questions.**

**I must hurry. Quickly, a couple other things you might expect.**

### **SOME REJECTION BY SOCIETY (VS. 34).**

**I wish I didn't have to say this, but it can happen. This man was cast out. That meant he was blackballed from the Jew's economic and social circles. Paul was run out of town, imprisoned, and stoned. John Wesley was not allowed to preach in his father's church. Martin Luther was put out of church he had sewed all his life. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were blacklisted in the motion picture industry. I had a roommate whose family disowned him.**

**Usually it doesn't happen openly. But it can in subtle ways. That's why our Lord leveled with us and said, "Except a man (be willing to) leave father and mother, houses and lands, he is not fit to be my disciple." There is a definite risk of being rejected by some of society.**

**Wait a minute, preacher. Why are you telling us this? Are you trying to talk us out of being saved? Not at all. I'm just trying to be honest with you. Wait until you see what else you can expect if you are saved.**

**You can expect VISION AND PURPOSE TO SEE WHERE YOU ARE GOING IN LIFE (VS. 25, 30b) "He has opened my eyes."**

**And, oh boy, did Jesus open my eyes! When he got a hold of me, I didn't know what life was all about nor what I should do with my life. I was a teenager who just went along with the crowd and let others do my thinking for me, and God only-knows where I would be today if Jesus had not opened my eyes and given me a purpose and a goal for living.**

**Before I was exiting. Today I'm living.  
Before I was drifting with the current.  
Today I'm pressing for the mark.  
Before I lost in the crowd. Today I know where I'm going and have the joy of taking others there with me.**

**Along side of this, all the other things I mentioned don't matter. This more than balances the scales. I wish I could get saved over and over again. It's so great!**

**If you are saved, you can expect A FRIEND WHO IS CLOSER THAN FAMILY (VS. 35).**

**I love that. When "Jesus heard that they had cast him out, "He found him." Yes, there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. He has promised "I will never leave you nor forsake you." "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Oh, what a friend.**

**"I've found a friend, oh such a friend, He loved me 'ere  
I knew Him. He drew me with chords of love. And thus  
He bound me to him."**

**There's no friendship like the friendship of Jesus Christ!**

**There's one more thing we can expect if we are saved,  
CONFIDENCE IN THE FACE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (vs. 39).**

**Jesus Christ came into this world to divide men.  
According to their response to Him, they will face an  
eternity of darkness or light.**

**Some day He will judge all men. "For every man  
must pass before the judgment seat of Christ." (Romans  
14:10) The true test of life cannot be made as we go nor  
be measured by temporary gains and successes. The real  
test comes when the books are opened and our everlast-  
ing destiny is revealed. That's when we will know the  
truth of the verse: "What shall it profit a man if he gain  
the whole world and lose his own soul. Or what shall a  
man give in exchange for his soul."**

**To some Jesus will say: "Depart I never knew you."  
To others, "Enter into the place prepared for you." And  
I am told that on that day, my friend and Saviour, Jesus,  
will be my judge. He will know me!! And He will take me  
to the place that He has prepared for me. That will be the  
ultimate benefit of being saved.**

**Where will you be, my friend? Come to Jesus today,  
and be with us!**