

the  Venues  
**Go Deep**  
**The Change Will Do You Good**  
**Paul and Skubala**  
1.5.20

*Happy New Year! What changes do you want to make or see in 2020? Any resolutions?*

The Apostle Paul made some big changes! Huge!  
The change started in Acts 9:1-17. Take a look.

*Based on this passage, how would you describe Paul and his attitude toward those who followed Christ?*

Paul was very religious, yet he was a hater and murderer.

*What does that say about religion? How is it good? How is it bad?*

**Read Acts 26:14.**

*Have you ever heard of a goad? Any idea what it is? (Think about plowing with an ox)*

**Read Ecclesiastes 12:11.** “Goad” comes from a word that means “to teach”

*What was the “goad” teaching Paul?*

*What teachings of Jesus are hard to learn?*

What do you think about this statement: “People don’t resist change. They resist loss.”

**Read Philippians 3:4-8.**

*What did Paul include on his religious resume’?*

*How does he characterize his religious heritage?*

Take another look at Philippians 3:8, especially the word translated in most versions as “rubbish.” It is the Greek word *skubala*. “The Message” translates it “dog dung.” The Wycliffe Bible translates it as “turds.” The New English Translation Commentary defines it as “fecal matter.”

*So, how do you feel about Paul using such language to describe his religious heritage?*

*How do you feel about Paul using such language, period?*

Paul lost his former view of God, religion, spirituality, world-view...But he considered the things he lost as *skubala*.

*What views of religion, of God, of others, of yourself, might you need to lose?*