

THE PERSECUTOR'S MISSION CHANGED.

(ACTS IX).

I N one moment the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven had revolutionized all his thoughts.

With all his religious zeal and devotedness to the law, he was going on as one that was stone blind. He was in utter spiritual darkness; but light from heaven opened his spiritual eyes, while his natural eyes became sealed with blindness. It was the power of God turning a soul from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. But more than this, this remarkable man, this chief of sinners, was to become a public witness of the super-abounding grace that had wrought in himself. The Lord Jesus, whom he had been persecuting, and at whose feet he was now prostrated, said to him, "Rise and stand upon thy feet; for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, *unto whom now I send thee*, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith that is in Me." (Acts xxvi. 16-18). What a change is this from the blind mission of persecution and bloodshed just now brought so suddenly to a close! Wonderful grace that had wrought it.