For Small Group Discussion
 Discuss the following:

-I am chosen by God
 -I am a chosen for a specific purpose.
 -I am being shaped into a more effective instrument for God’s purpose
 -I am God’s instrument, owned and cherished by Him.
 Spend some time in prayer that God would reveal His cherished plan for your life and the life of our church.

 Have a great week. We love you,

 Jay and Mona

“A Powerful Witness…Is a Chosen Instrument”
Text: Acts 9:1-19 Pastor Jay Cave BPCC 03/29/2015
Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration
 Anyone who has a tool box knows the importance of having the right tool for a specific task. It is no different in the Christian life. Paul is described as being a “chosen instrument” in our text today. He was specifically chosen, shaped, and used to carry God’s name “before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9: 15). Today’s sermon deals with the idea of being a chosen instrument in the hands of God.
 **First of all, let’s ponder what it means to be “chosen.”** There are few more powerful ideas than the fact that we are chosen by God. I was fifteen years into my walk with the Lord before I was introduced to the biblical Doctrine of Election which correctly asserts that it is God, not ourselves, who does the choosing (see Exodus 19:6, John 15:16, Romans 9, 1 Peter 2:9). And God does not choose as the world does. God chooses the sinner, not the righteous (Luke 5:32). God chooses the weak, not the strong (1 Corinthians 1:27). Paul fit the bill perfectly. He was the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 15, Romans 7:7-25). He was also among the weak (2 Corinthians 12:8,9). When we get our minds around the fact that we are chosen, not based on our own goodness nor volition but upon God’s sovereign election, it will bring power to our walk.
 **Secondly, we must realize that we are chose for a purpose.** Paul was chosen to minister to the Gentiles. We also have a unique purpose. Ephesians 2:10 assures us that we were chosen by God for works prepared in advance that we might walk in them. This is a personal promise as well as a corporate promise. Bay Point Christian church is

uniquely created to L.E.A.D. our Diverse Community to Christ. We were chosen for this cause. The notion that we are chosen for a purpose brings a life of power.
 **Thirdly, we must be shaped into a more effective instrument.** We aren’t necessarily born an effective instrument of God. We must be shaped into an instrument for God. This usually happens by entering God’s crucible. Paul was told what he must suffer for the cause of Christ (Acts 9:16). Peter reminds us that challenges cause us to grow in our faith (1 Peter 1:7). The wonderful news about Christianity is that our pain is redemptive. It is not arbitrary or meaningless. God is at work shaping us to be more effective (see also Hebrews 12:10).
 **Finally, we are instruments under the possession of God.** The Lord said that Paul was “a chosen instrument of mine…” (Acts 9:15). We aren’t just any old tool. We are God’s tool, kept and cherished by him for eternal use. It is good to remind ourselves that nothing can ever take us away from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38,39) and that we always will be cherished and valuable to Him.
 Hopefully, you will leave today’s service understanding that your life has tremendous meaning. God was at work in you before you were born creating the perfect instrument for His use (Psalm 139). This week ask the Lord to more fully reveal your purpose. Realize that He has brought you to this particular church family in order to more perfectly shape you into His chosen instrument.