

Fearing the Lord, Not Men, the Church Grows

Acts 9:20-31

October 27, 2019

Christ is building His church through persecution and peace.

1. Saul in Damascus (20-22)
action preaching “the Jesus, that this man, is the Son of God”
reaction astonishment and **questions** about Saul’s identity
“ . . . *but Saul*” excelled at proving that Jesus is the **Christ**
2. Saul returns to Damascus (23-25)
action (after time in Arabia, see Galatians 1:17-18a)
reaction Jewish conspiracy and plan to kill Saul
“ . . . *but his disciples*” helped him **escape** at night
(see also 2 Cor. 11:32-33)
3. Saul goes to Jerusalem (26-27)
action Saul tries to **join** with the other disciples
reaction they fear Saul and don’t believe he’s a **disciple**
“ . . . *but Barnabas*” told what the Lord did for Saul (11:25-26)
4. Saul in Jerusalem (28-30)
action bold speech, **debating** “*in the name of the Lord*”
reaction Greek-speaking Jews seek to **kill** Saul
“ . . . *but the brothers*” sent Saul away for awhile
5. The persecuted church finally gets a break (31)
 - Enjoys **peace** (see also 8:1-3)
 - Is strengthened / built up
 - **Living** in the fear of the Lord
 - Encouraged / comforted by the Holy Spirit
 - Increased in **numbers** (see also 6:7)

Life Group Homework

1. Choose one of the following two sayings and tell why you like it
 - Preach Christ at all times. Use words if necessary.
 - Preach Christ. Use words at all times. They are necessary.
2. Would you have listened to Saul’s preaching when he was a brand new follower of Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Of the following list of proofs that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ) rank 1 – 5 from (1) Most Familiar to (5) Least Familiar to you
 - _____ Hebrew Scriptures (OT); fulfilled prophecy about Christ
 - _____ Jesus’ own claims; What did Jesus say about Himself?
 - _____ Jesus’ ministry and miracles; What did Jesus do?
 - _____ Jesus’ resurrection; How do we know Jesus is alive?
 - _____ Changed lives of His followers; your own testimony

In which area would you like additional teaching to help you?
4. READ Matthew 10:26-33. Whom does Jesus say to fear? Does this encourage you? Why or why not?
5. READ John 15:18-21 and 16:2-3. List 5 or more reasons why Jesus says His disciples will be hated. Include references.
 - a. Because they hated Jesus, so too His followers (18, 20)
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.