

Bible Study 32 – Acts 9:26-31 – Paul preaches Christ in Jerusalem

And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists.[c] But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

1. Paul returned to Jerusalem but was understandably rebuffed by the church: And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

a) After escaping death at Damascus, Paul made his way back to Jerusalem...

b) On arriving in the capital, he rightly sought out the church...

c) Aware of his history, however, the Christians in the city were naturally sceptical of his claim to conversion and were even fearful of his intentions towards them...

2. The rectitude of Paul's conversion nevertheless was affirmed by the advocacy of Barnabas: But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

a) Barnabas came to Paul's defence...

b) Barnabas conveyed Paul to the apostles...

c) Barnabas communicated the story of Paul's conversion and ministry in Damascus to the apostles...

3. As a result of Barnabas's intervention, Paul was received by the church: So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.

a) Paul was accepted by the apostles and by the wider church in Jerusalem...

b) Paul was affirmed by the apostles and wider church...

c) Paul audaciously preached the gospel to all in Jerusalem...

4. Paul's resolute advocacy and defence of the gospel again endangered his life: 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

a) Paul engaged with opponents of Christ's gospel...

b) Paul enraged opponents of Christ's gospel...

c) Paul again escapes the murderous intentions of certain opponents of Christ's gospel...

5. Despite the rancorous opposition to Christ's gospel and his followers, the church enjoyed grace and growth: 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

a) The church continued to grow despite vehement and vociferous opposition...

b) The church continued to glorify God in worship, work, and witness...

c) The church continued in the blessing of God's grace for conviction, confidence, and comfort...

Questions

1. Why did Paul make for Jerusalem after escaping the threat to his life at Damascus?

2. What signs (evidence) are there that we are Christians?

3. What place the church in the Christian life?

4. How did the church grow? Are there lessons we need to relearn today?