

PAUL'S EARLY MINISTRY OPPOSED BY THE JEWS

(Acts 9:20-31)

I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (1-2)

II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)

III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (8-12)

A. The Conversion of Saul who becomes Paul the Apostle (9:1-19)

B. Paul Preaches Jesus in the Synagogues (9:20-22)

1. "Immediately" after his conversion, Paul preached that Jesus was the _____ and that He was "*the _____ of God*"; this _____ those who listened to this former persecutor of Christians. (vv. 20-21)

2. Paul's personal conviction of the truth of the Christian Faith progressively _____ in strength as opposition grew; he did this by continually _____ (Gk *sumbibazo*) that Jesus was the *Christos*. (v. 22)

C. The Apostle Paul's Sojourn in Arabia (9:23a, cf. Gal. 1:11-18)

1. Between verses 22 and 23 it is likely that when Luke wrote "*now after many days were past*" he was referring to an interval of _____ years where Paul went to _____. (v. 23a, cf. Gal. 1:13-18)

2. During this time, Paul did _____ receive his "Christian indoctrination" from the other Twelve _____, but through direct _____ from Jesus Christ. (Gal. 1: 11-12, 16-19)

ORDER OF EVENTS—

- Crucifixion of Christ A.D. 33
- Pentecost (Acts 2) A.D. 33
- Martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 6-7) A.D. 34
- Paul's Conversion A.D. 35 (summer)
- Paul in Damascus and Arabia A.D. 35 (summer) to 37 (early summer)
- Paul's first visit back to Jerusalem A.D. 37 (summer)
- Paul returns to Tarsus and Syria-Cilicia A.D. 37 (Fall)

D. Paul's Escape and First Visit to the Church in Jerusalem (9:23b-31)

1. On his return to Damascus the Jews plotted to _____ him, but Paul was made _____ of this and some fellow believers _____ him escape by means of lowering him in a basket. (vv. 23b-25)
 2. It had been three years since his conversion before he finally traveled back to Jerusalem where he _____ to meet with other believers, but they _____ trust him, they were _____ of him. (v. 26)
 3. Barnabas acted as Paul's _____, and he physically brought him to at least two of the apostles, _____ and _____ (Gal. 1:18-19); his personal testimony was given. (v. 27)
 4. Paul had a _____ with the apostles (v. 28), and he followed in Stephen's footsteps and _____ preached Jesus Christ, and _____ the Hellenists who wanted him dead. (v. 29)
- * Historically what happened between verses 29 and 30? (22:17-21)
5. When other believers discovered the Hellenists' _____ to _____ Paul, "*they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus*" which was his _____. (v. 30)
 6. Not only had Saul the persecutor been converted, but the Jewish antagonism towards Paul and his ministry was so _____, that when he _____ the _____ the Church enjoyed a time of peace. (v. 31)

* What can you personally learn from all of this today?