

Sermon Notes: "From Persecutor to Preacher Part 3"

Date: October, 16, 2022 - Acts 9:23-31

Central Idea: God changes His workmen, but His work goes on. Are you a part of God's work today?

Introduction: Most scholars believe that Luke's 'many days' in verse 23 may have been as long as three years. In Galatians 1:17 Paul talks about a period of time spent in Arabia; this likely took place between verses 22 and 23 of Acts 9. The Jews in Damascus did not expect this turn of events. They had anticipated a raging-bull persecutor, but instead Saul was proclaiming Jesus to be the Son of God.

I. Saul Persecuted vv. 23-25

- 1. Plot vv. 23-24**
- 2. Preservation v. 25**

II. Saul Protected vv. 25-31

- 1. Suspicion v. 26**
- 2. Reception vv. 27-28**
- 3. Disputation v. 29**
- 4. Decision v.30**
- 5. Intermission v. 31**

Conclusion: Acts 9:31 is another of Luke's summaries that he regularly dropped into the book (Acts 2:46-47; 4:4, 31; 5:12-14). Note that the geographic locations parallel those given in Acts 1:8. Luke is telling us that the message was going out just as the Lord had commanded. It was a time of "peace" for the churches, but not a time of complacency, for they grew both spiritually and numerically.