

# \*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus

## \*Acts 9:19-31

The Reality of Conversion

Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,<sup>20</sup> and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."<sup>21</sup> All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and *who* had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"<sup>22</sup> But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

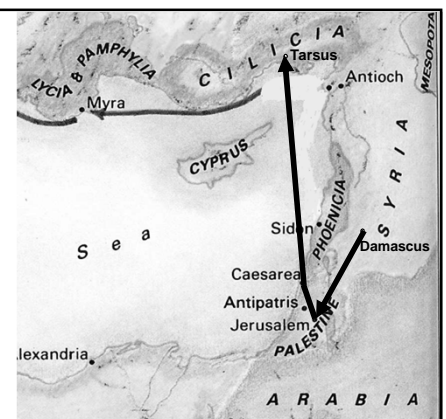
<sup>23</sup> When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,<sup>24</sup> but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death;<sup>25</sup> but his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening* in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

<sup>26</sup> When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.<sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.<sup>28</sup> And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.<sup>29</sup> And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic *Jews*; but they were attempting to put him to death.<sup>30</sup> But when the brethren learned *of it*, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

(Acts 9:19-31)

- Paul in Damascus (Arabia) for 3 yrs. before coming to Jerusalem
- Paul stayed near Tarsus for 8 to 10 years before he came to Antioch



## Reality of Conversion

1. Identification with fellow believers
  - Paul immediately associated with the disciples of Jesus
  - Paul knew the importance of unity with the Apostolic church and gospel

## Reality of Conversion

- *Application*
  - new associations – new believers instinctively and necessarily associate with fellow believers
  - the gospel creates a unity that overcomes distinctions, prejudices and past sins

## Reality of Conversion

2. Proclamation of Jesus as Savior
  - Paul immediately proclaimed to others that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah
  - Paul's transformation and his argumentation were irrefutable

## Reality of Conversion

- *Application*
  - believers in Jesus have an irrepressible desire to tell to others that Jesus is Savior and Lord
  - conversion to Christ is not merely a private religious experience but a being brought to the knowledge of 'the truth'

## Reality of Conversion

3. Experience of Persecution
  - Paul, the persecutor, became the persecuted at the hands of his own people
  - Paul's irrefutable testimony and reasoning led to persecution

## Reality of Conversion

- *Application*

*“And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”*

(2 Timothy 3:9)