

June 11, 2023
Acts 9:19b-31 "Encouragers & Persons Of Peace"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Luke's purpose in this passage, (1)To demonstrate Saul's about face and genuineness of his conversion proclaiming Jesus to be both the Son Of God and the Messiah. (2)To depict Saul's hearers as being so astonished that they had to ask themselves, is this really the same man who had been persecuting the Christians? (3)Luke also highlights how the persecutor has now become the persecuted!

Verse 23 indicates three years had passed before he went to Jerusalem, see **Galatians 1:18**. In the epistle of **II Corinthians 11:32-33** Saul/Paul, makes mention of this attempt to kill him. Gleaned from *Richard N. Longenecker*

Luke does not give us all the facts regarding time periods or geographical exactness at times. "We are at perfect liberty to supplement the narrative in Acts with items from Paul's epistles." *A. T. Robertson.*

Regarding **verse 30**, "Here we come to the greatest gap in the record of Saul's life since we saw him at Stephen's death. Saul is lost to view for about eight years; see **11:25** where Barnabas brings him forth from Tarsus. For more than ten years after his conversion and call the Lord's chosen instrument for bring the gospel to the Gentiles (**v. 15**) is not active in his great special mission. All we can say is that this was the Lord's will. We should think that Saul was ready for his task, and his task was ready for him immediately after he had been called; the Lord evidently knew better." *R. C. H. Lenski* God is much more interested in timing than He is time.

Application:

The fear of the Lord means that the church dreaded the thought of doing anything that would displease or offend the Lord. This included their daily walk and how the church operated within the community. Encouragers and persons of peace, are blessing to the Lord and His church. This high praise of the Lord fleshed out by His people is a great witness to others. By lifting the Lord up in this way the believer becomes keenly aware of their need to avoid worldliness and selfishness in their own lives. When a church responds to the Lord in this way those around them are attracted to what they see. Just like in Saul's day this can lead to many being won to the Lord Jesus for the glory of God. Notice too that we are not on our own to "make this happen." Believers are given the Holy Spirit for direction and comfort. When the members of the church fear the Lord and have the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, the church will be strong and the Lord will be glorified!