



Building the church

A sermon series on the Gospel of Acts

Paul's Early Days

Acts 9:19-31

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,
24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the
gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but his disciples took
him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall,
lowering him in a basket. 26 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. 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.

- Acts 9:19-31



Acts 9:19-31

Main idea: Paul prepares for ministry, refining his message, his faith, and his relationships.

- **19-22: His Message:** Jesus the Son of God and the Christ
- **23-25: His Training:** Paul on the Run
- **26-31: His Growth:** Discipled by Barnabas

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-Acts 19:19-22

vs 20: Jesus is the Son of God = Divinity of Jesus (identity)

vs 22: Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) = The Work/Mission of Jesus (vocation)

13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.
14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.
15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me.

- Galatians 1:13-16

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16 yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

-Galatians 2:15-16

10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” 12 But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” — 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

- Galatians 3:10-14

26 “Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ - Deuteronomy 27:26

20 The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven. - Deuteronomy 29:20

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afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

- Acts 9:23-26

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. . . 15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, 16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

- Galatians 1:11-12,15-17

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- 2 Timothy 2:15-15

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- Acts 9:26-31

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

- Galatians 1:18-19

21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. 22 And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. 23 They only were hearing it said, “He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.”

- Galatians 1:21-23

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.

- Acts 9:31

Paul's Early Timeline

34 AD- Conversion and early Days in Damascus

34-37AD- Three years in Arabia

37AD- Goes to Jerusalem and discipled by Barnabas

37-46 AD- Remains in Tarsus

46 AD- Barnabas finds him to establish the church in Antioch

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Three Questions for Reflection

1. How am I growing in my understanding of the Gospel?
2. How am I preparing for the ministry God has called me to (and what is that ministry)?
3. Who is my Barnabas?