



MZBMP

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TITLE:

Paul's Early Ministry (Part 2)

TEXT:

Acts 9:26-31; Gal. 1:18-21.

IN JERUSALEM:

- After escaping from a plot to kill him in Damascus, Paul traveled to Jerusalem to meet with Peter (Gal. 1:18).
 - It is his first return to Jerusalem after his conversion.
- He spent 15 days in Jerusalem (Gal. 1:18).
- He presented himself for membership in the church at Jerusalem, but they were afraid of him, not believing he was a true disciple (Acts 9:26).
 - The church voted “no” because he was not considered to be a disciple.
- However, Barnabas took him to the apostles and explained how he had seen the Lord on the road to Damascus and preached boldly in Jesus's name there (Acts 9:27).
 - Barnabas was a native of Cyprus and a Levite by extraction. Possessing land, he generously disposed of it for the benefit of the believers and laid the money at the apostle's feet (Acts 4:36-37).
 - The church reversed its vote after Barnabas recommended himself as a disciple.
 - He became a member of the church in Jerusalem.
- He stayed with the disciples in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He disputed with the Grecians, who then plotted to kill him (Acts 9:29).
 - Grecians are Greek-speaking Jews.
 - The Lord warned him about the danger in Jerusalem (Acts 22:17-21).
- The brethren brought him to Caesarea to escape (Acts 9:30).
- The church sent him to Tarsus (Acts 9:30).

IN TARSUS:

- Tarsus is Paul's hometown (Acts 22:3).
- He did some preaching on his way to Tarsus (Acts 26:20).
- During this period, churches were established in Cilicia and Syria most probably by the missionary Paul (Gal. 1:21; Acts 15:41).
 - Paul and Barnabas did not go there on their first missionary journey.
- The length of his stay in Tarsus was probably 10 years. Compare Gal. 2:1; 1:18; Acts 11:26.
- Some of the hardships described by Paul in 2 Cor. 11:23-26 occurred during this period.

APPLICATION:

- Paul knows the importance of being a member of a local church.
- Acts 9:26-27 shows a biblical pattern for the transfer of church membership.
- He continually preaches boldly in the name of the Lord.
- He never considers what his former colleagues might say to him. E.g., Gamaliel, Pharisees.
- He fulfills the Lord's commission to him (Acts 9:15-16).