

Acts 9:20-30
Entering Into the Fellowship of the Church

Introduction:

Once an individual is converted to Christ by faith believing in the redemptive work of Christ on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, the individual seeks to enter the church which is the body of Christ. This is precisely what Saul did who later became the great Apostle Paul. He entered the church to be nurtured and trained in the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. **Saul's Fervent Preaching – v.20-22**
 - A. **Where does the preacher's authority come from?**
 - 1. Not self appointed – Gal. 3:19;
 - 2. Ordained by Jesus and later Elders – John 15:16
 - B. **Saul Received by disciples – v.19-22**
 - 1. Saul spent several days with the disciples – v.19
 - 2. Saul preached after 3 years in Arabia – Gal. 1:17-118
 - 3. Saul was no novice in the Scriptures – Acts 5:34; 22:3
 - C. **Saul preached Jesus – v. 22**
 - D. **Amazed at Saul's preaching – v.21,22**
 - 1. A great defender of Judaism
 - 2. A destroyer of the church – Gal. 1:13, 23

- II. **Saul's Fearless Suffering – v. 23-25**
 - A. **Why Suffer?**
 - 1. Suffering for the sake of Christ
 - 2. The error of thinking that suffering is not God's will. II Tim. 1:8; Turn To: I Peter 3:13-17
 - 3. The Jewish plot to kill Saul – v.23; II Cor. 11:32-33

- III. **Saul's Fraternal Acceptance – v.26- 28**
 - A. **Associating with the church – “join” Gk. (Kollao) means “to be glued together” Matt. 19:5; Acts 5:13; 10:28; 17:34)**
 - B. **Afraid of Saul – v.26**
 - C. **Barnabas' Recommendation – v.27**
 - 1. Barnabas introduced earlier – Acts 4:36-37
 - 2. Barnabas later became Paul's companion on his first missionary journey – Acts 13-14
 - 3. What has happened to Saul?
 - D. **Accepting Saul into the Church – v. 28**
 - 1. He entered into the fellowship of the church – Gal. 2:8,9
 - 2. A true mark of unity in the Church is when a fraternal relationship is based upon the sound doctrine of the gospel of grace – Jude 3

