

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AT JERUSALEM.

Acts 9:26-29

Gal. 1:15-19

INTRODUCTION *3 years before he left Jerusalem; a proud*

It was in blindness that Paul had entered Damascus and it was under the friendly cover of darkness that he was forced to flee Damascus. This must have made a very great impression on Paul's mind for 14 years afterwards he referred to this escape. 2 Cor. 11:32,33; Acts 9:25.

WHEN SAUL WAS COME TO JERUSALEM. *talented young pharisee with brilliant worldly prospects* Acts 9:26. What happened when Saul was come to Jerusalem? *an honored agent*

1. He assayed to join himself to the disciples. Who were the disciples?: *of the Sanhedrin, the new returns*
1. They were a handful of weak men and women, destitute of resources and sometime described as "ignorant & unlearned." *a disciple of him whom he sought*
2. They were those who had been converted to the Lord and thereby made up the membership at Jerusalem.
3. They had to contend with many interests: *to destroy*
 - (1) Almost impregnable prejudices as today.
 - (2) With worldly wisdom as today.
 - (3) With powerful material interests as today.

WHAT PAUL MIGHT HAVE DONE

1. He could have become an itinerant evangelist, self-appointed, self-advertised, self-sufficient, "answerable only to the Lord,"
2. He could have gathered ~~around~~ a conclave of spiritual cronies and formed some new "cell" of society. MAYBE: THE EXCLUSIVE BRETHREN. PAUL WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT:

WHY PAUL WOULD JOIN WITH THE DISCIPLES AT JERUSALEM! We suggest four reasons:

1. He realized his own biblical teaching that, "We are members one of another," and that a member separated from the body is of no use to the body. Rom. 12:4,5
1.Cor.12:15ff
2. Paul knew that one private-enterprise isolationist in field could not make much impact on a lost world. He knew that we must be workers together. 2 Cor. 6:1
3. Paul knew that he should be under the guidance and oversight of the elders. Heb. 13:17
4. Finally: He would count for Christ. He wanted the good Christians around him in times of adversity and stress, anxiety and disappointment, temptation and danger, in labour and sorrow.

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