

“Peace and Rest”

Acts 9:26-31

Introduction

- I. I can only imagine how the first century Christians felt day by day.
- II. Persecutions were frequent, and at times, fatal.
- III. Today, there are many enemies of the cross, but imagine how much better things could be if we were able to convert our “enemies” to Christ.
 - A. That very thing happened in the first century with the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.
 - B. As a result of such, the brethren were able to experience a temporary period of peace and rest (Acts 9:26-31)
- IV. There are many reason why the church should want relative peace, and there is much good that can come from peace and rest.

Discussion

- I. Peace brings blessings.
 - A. A time to strengthen ourselves (Matt. 5:6; Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17),
 - B. A time to rejoice [after our difficulties are over] (James 1:2; 1 Thess. 5:16; Phil. 4:4).
 - C. A time of reflection [what have you done well, and in what areas do you need to improve (Heb. 12:1-2; cf. 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 2 Pet. 1:5-7; 3:18).
- II. Peace requires responsibility.
 - A. Never quit [do not become like Demas] (Philemon 23-24; 2 Tim. 4:10; cf. 2 Pet. 1:10).
 - B. Never compromise (Prov. 8:13; 16:6; cf. Psm. 111:10; Prov. 1:7, 29; 14:27; Gal. 2:4-5).
- III. Peace opens opportunities.
 - A. We can spread the Gospel without fear (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; 2 Tim. 2:2).
 - B. We can be more benevolent (Gal. 6:10; James 1:27).
 - C. We can demonstrate our love for one another (John 13:34-35; 1 Pet. 1:22).

Conclusion

- I. While the church can grow as a result of persecutions, that does not mean that periods of peace and rest are unimportant.
- II. Let us remember (Rom. 12:18-21).