

# **“Understanding Peace”**

## **Acts 9:23-31**

### Introduction

- I. Much is said about peace, but there are things about peace that some might not understand (Phil. 4:6-7; Eph 2:13-14; 4:1-3; Col. 3:15; 2 Thess. 3:16).
- II. When difficulties cease/pause, do we recognize what can happen during times of peace?
  - A. Peace allows for opportunities to grow.
  - B. Peace allows for opportunities to edify.
  - C. Peace allows for opportunities to teach.

### Discussion

- I. Peace allows for opportunities to grow.
  - A. The church will experience persecutions (2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:15-16; James 1:1-4; Matt. 5:10-11).
  - B. After the persecutions, what do we do?
    - 1. This is a time to recover/restrengthen ourselves.
    - 2. This is a time when we can study the Bible (Matt. 5:6; Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 1-2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
    - 3. This is a time to contemplate.
      - a. How did I handle the difficulty (1 Tim. 6:12)?
      - b. How can I improve for the next difficulty (Heb. 12:1-3)?
- II. Peace allows for opportunities to edify.
  - A. God understands the good of edification (Eph. 4:11-16).
  - B. Christians should “build up” one another (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11).
  - C. This is a time to say and show our love to our brethren (1 Cor. 8:1; John 13:34-35; 1 Pet. 1:22).
- III. Peace allows for opportunities to teach.
  - A. We should not become spiritually lazy (Matt. 25:14-30).
  - B. Multitudes need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16; Rom. 10:13-17).

### Conclusion

- I. Peace allows for opportunities to grow.
- II. Peace allows for opportunities to edify.
- III. Peace allows for opportunities to teach.