



Pleasant Grove Baptist Fountain Inn AM Sermon Notes March 22, 2020

Text: Acts 9:23-31

Title: Wanted in Church: People like Barnabas

Central Truth: Saul's sudden conversion to Christ brought him persecution from non-Christians and skepticism from the Apostles, yet Barnabas befriended him and supported him thus providing us with a positive example to follow.

vv. 23-25 I. The Conspiracy

There is a time interval between v. 22 and v. 23 of about three years (cf. Galatians 1:17-18).

v. 24 This shows us the sovereign and protective hand of God at work. It wasn't time for Saul to die. _____

v. 25 Saul exits Damascus like a criminal, smuggled out in a basket (cf. 2 Cor. 11:32-33). _____

vv. 26-30 II. The Cold Shoulder

v. 26 NASB-**he was trying**, KJV-**he assayed**, NIV-**he tried**-the verb translated here is in a specific tense which implies Saul made repeated attempts to join the disciples. _____

v. 27 Barnabas (cf. Acts 4:36-37) **Son of Encouragement** had a positive personality that lifted people up and encouraged them. He went to bat for Saul and personally endorsed him! _____

v. 30 Saul (Paul) returns home to Tarsus. The next time he appears in the Book of Acts (11:25-26) approximately ten years have passed. _____

v. 31 III. The Consequences

Luke gives us a five-fold summary or progress report on the Church. These things happened because of Saul's conversion and Barnabas' work in getting Paul accepted in the Church. _____
