

“Be an ENCOURAGER” – Acts 9:26-28, 11:22-26

I. What should we know about the book of ACTS?

1. It's a **CONTINUATION** of the Gospel of Luke
2. It **CONCENTRATES** on the Acts of the Holy Spirit
3. It **CHRONICLES** the birth of the Christian Church

II. What should we know about the author LUKE?

1. **PHYSICIAN** turned Gospel writer
2. **POINTS** out more details than the other Gospel writers
3. **PORTRAYS** Jesus' ministry to the marginalized

III. What should we know about SAUL?

1. Saul was a **BYSTANDER** in the stoning of Stephen - Acts 7:58
2. Saul **BRUTALLY** put believers in prison - Acts 8:3
3. Saul **BULLIED** believers with murderous threats – Acts 9:1
4. Saul **BELIEVED** persecuting Christians was right – Acts 9:2

IV. What happened to Saul in ACTS 9?

1. Saul **MET** Christ on a Damascus Road – Acts 9:5
2. Saul was temporarily **MADE** blind by Christ for 3 days – Acts 9:9
3. Saul was called to be a **MINISTER** of Christ – Acts 9:15

V. In Acts 9:26-28, we learn that:

1. Barnabas ESTABLISHED a relationship with Paul when others wouldn't (v.26)

“When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.”

2. Barnabas ENDORSED Paul when he wasn't accepted by the Apostles (v.27)

“But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.”

3. Barnabas sacrificed his credibility so Paul could have an EFFECTIVE ministry (v.28)

“So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.”

VI. In Acts 11:22-26, we learn more about Barnabas

1. Barnabas was an EXTENSION of Paul and felt assigned to him (v.22)

“News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch”

2. Barnabas energetically ENCOURAGED the church in Antioch (v.23)

“When he arrived great and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”

3. Barnabas was a great EXAMPLE of a disciple and many EXPERIENCED Christ because of him (v.24)

“He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.”

4. Barnabas EXERCISED selflessness when he looked for Paul (v.25-26a)

“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.”

5. Barnabas helped to ENHANCE and ELEVATE Paul's ministry (v.26)

“and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

6. Barnabas earnestly EVANGELIZED and helped to EXPAND the gospel of Jesus Christ (26)

“...So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch”