

Lessons & Observations from Paul as a Persecutor

1. Hurting others is no way to advance one's self.
2. Men still cause Christians to suffer today.
3. True Confession involves humility. **1 Corinthians 15:9** – “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because persecuted the church of God.”
4. Although people may know of our former lives, let us not live as our former selves. **Galatians 1:15** – “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”
5. Men can still waste the church today.
6. Stones do not silence truth. Stones may silence the man, but not the plan.
7. One may silence the man , , , but not the plan.
8. Those who persecute sometimes are persecuted.
9. The Lord's church is not free from persecution today.
10. Some people, in the zeal of their religion, do persecute the church today.
11. Every Christian should live so as to enable the Lord to receive his spirit at the time of his death. **Acts 7:59** – ‘Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
12. Good can come out of persecution, **Acts 8:4** – “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”
13. There are those who still feel the need to “. . . do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.” **Acts 26:9**
14. Authority from a religious leader does not make a thing right unless it is authorized in the Scriptures.
15. A religious leader has no authority beyond that which is granted in the Bible.
16. May the forgiving spirit of Christ (**Luke 23:34**), and the forgiving spirit of Stephen (**Acts 7:60**), become the forgiving spirit of all Christians.
17. Who you teach about Christ:
 - a. Some will listen . . . some will not.
 - b. Some will believe . . . some will not.
 - c. Some will obey . . . some will not.

- d. Some will obey now . . . some will obey later . . . Some never at all.
18. Those who oppose you today may turn to Christ in the future.
 19. When one endeavors to live right, he will suffer persecution. **2 Timothy 3:12** - "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. "
 20. Anger in one can cause pain in another.
 21. Those one might think could never change . . . can change.
 22. Persecution in one place can help spread the gospel to another place.
 23. God may be working through our hurts.
 24. One should pray for his enemies.
 25. Some persecute with words . . . Some persecute with actions . . . Some persecute with both.
 26. One may think he is pleasing God in a matter when in fact he really isn't. The Bible is the true standard to know for sure.