



# **INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF GOD**

ACTS 9:20-31  
JOSE PRADO



**JESUS BUILDS AND SUSTAINS HIS CHURCH**



19b For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And *immediately he proclaimed* Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 *But Saul increased all the more in strength,* and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ. 23 When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, 25 but *his disciples* took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.



26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 **But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them** how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.



***Main Point:***

WE ARE SAVED TO BE  
INSTRUMENTS OF GOD'S  
GRACE TO BUILD HIS CHURCH.



# 1. Saved to Proclaim The Gospel

19b For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”



**Saul proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God is proclaiming that Jesus is God:**

*"In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily". **Colossians 2:9***

*"Though he was in the form of God he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied himself." **Philippians 2:6***

*"In these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of [God's] glory and the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power." **Hebrews 1:2-3***

*"Of the Son [God] he says, "Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever." **Hebrews 1:8***

*"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth"*  
**John 1:1, 14**



# Paul's Timeline

But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem...

**Galatians 1:15-18**



## 2. Saved to Demonstrate The Gospel

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.



## Proclamation with Demonstration produces the beautiful witness of Gospel Culture.

28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.



## What does Gospel Culture look like?

- Boldness - 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, **preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.**
- Brotherly Care - 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And **when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.**
- Building of The body - 31 So **the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up.** And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **it multiplied.**



## Pastoral Reflections:

- *Is your desire to be a powerful instrument in Jesus' hands?*
- *Are you willing to repent of your apathy and ask Jesus to fill you with His Spirit and use you?*