

ACTS 21:15-36

(v.15-19)

Paul's boast was in the Lord!

(1 Corinthians 1:31b) "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

(v.20-21) Satan had started a "disinformation campaign," against Paul.

There is another word we can use for disinformation, it is gossip!

(Proverbs 18:6-8) A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows. A fool's mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.

James 3:8, "no man/woman can tame the tongue."

(Psalm 141:3) Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

(Romans 14:19) Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

(Galatians 6:14-15) But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

(v.22-25). "Nazirite vow" – Numbers 6:13-18.

Jesus was *criticized* by the Pharisees (religious leaders) (Matthew 9:13) But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

(v.26-29) Elders plan backfires!

(v.30-36). Note: (v.33) was a fulfillment of Agabus' prophesy, (21:10, 11).

CONCLUSION:

2 Corinthians 11:24-29. Paul's trials and tribulation outlined.

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant." (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)

Trials and tribulation - opportunity for the works of God.

(John 9:2, 3)... "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

Paul believed God was sovereign over the chaos!