

Making Havoc of the Church

Acts 8:3

Introduction:

- A. It is great that there is more to the story of Saul than this verse!
 - 1. What a way to be known!
 - 2. What legacy to overcome!
 - 3. What a deed to be done!
- B. Surely no one would want to be guilty of “making havoc of the church!”
 - 1. Persecution was Saul’s way of “making havoc of the church” (Acts 8:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:19)
 - 2. But, there are things other than persecution that make havoc of the church.

Discussion:

I. Worldliness

- A. Worldliness is a mind-set that expresses itself in many forms (Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:2)
 - 1. It may be a love for the immorality of this world.
 - 2. It may be being preoccupation with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world (Luke 8:14)
- B. Left alone, it will leaven the whole lump (1 Cor. 5:4-7)
 - 1. Immorality has a way of spreading (cf. 1 Cor. 15:33).
 - 2. Preoccupation with cares, riches and pleasure depletes spirituality – carnalizes worship and work

II. Strife

- A. Internal strife can destroy a congregation (cf. Gal. 5:15)
 - 1. Stifles productivity.
 - 2. Drives away peace lovers.
 - 3. Driven by hate rather than love (v. 14).
- B. Honorable controversy can strengthen, but not “obsessed with disputes” (1 Tim. 6:4-5)

III. Religious Error

- A. False doctrine causes divisions (Rom. 16:17-18)
- B. Truth and error cannot coexist (Gal. 2:4-5)
- C. It will make havoc of the church, one way or the other.
 - 1. If it takes over all the church, it will be destroy it.
 - 2. If it takes over some of the church, it will divide it.

IV. Imbalance

- A. Nehemiah successfully rebuilt Jerusalem with a balanced approach (Neh. 4:17).
- B. Jeremiah was commanded the balanced approach (Jer. 1:9,10).
- C. Teaching and practice of a congregation must the balanced (2 Tim. 4:2; Rev. 2:2-4).
 - 1. All positive makes the church vulnerable to sin and error.
 - 2. All negative robs the church of growth and production.

V. Indifference

- A. A man, asked if he knew the meaning of indifference, replied, “I could not care less.”
- B. God rewards those that diligently seek him (Heb. 11:6) – not the indifferent.
- C. Indifferent members make a lukewarm church (cf. Rev. 3:15-19)
 - 1. Show minimal interest in most things of the church.
 - 2. Want to be “part of the church” without being “part of the work.”
 - 3. Need to “be zealous and repent..” (v. 19)
 - 4. Enough indifference will cause church “die on the vine.”

Conclusion:

- A. Let us avoid anything that would make havoc of the church.
- B. Let us embrace anything that will strengthen the church.