

PAUL'S PERSECUTORS

Acts 9:20-25

**We see here that Paul had many who opposed him
and learn too how he responded to them.**

I. PAUL'S RESISTERS

A. FROM HIS PEOPLE

1. Damascus Jews oppose him - Acts 9:20-25
2. Asian Jews attack him - Acts 21:27-40
3. Jerusalem Jews resist him - Acts 23:12-24
4. Tertullus the Prosecutor against him - Acts 24:1-9

B. FROM THE PAGANS

1. Elymas the Magician - Acts 13:6-12
2. A Fortune-Teller's Masters - Acts 16:16-24
3. Demetrius the Silversmith - Acts 19:22-31
4. Alexander the Coppersmith - II Tim. 4:14-15

C. FROM SOME POLITICIANS

1. Felix the Governor - Acts 24:22-27
2. Festus the Governor - Acts 26:19-25

D. FROM FALSE PROPHETS

1. False Apostles - II Cor. 11:12-15, 22-28
2. False Brethren - Gal. 2:3-6
3. False Preachers - Phil. 2:12-18
4. False Teachers - II Tim. 2:15-18

II. PAUL'S RESPONSES

A. HIS PRIORITY - Acts 20:17-24

1. The habits (17-21)
2. The expectation (22-23)
3. The goal (24)

B. HIS ATTITUDE - II Cor. 12:9-15

1. Pleasure amid affliction (9-10)
2. Gladly spending and being spent (15)

C. HIS MOTIVATION - Phil. 3:10-21

1. To know God's power (10-11)
2. To know God's praise (12-14)
3. To know God's prize (20-21)

CONCLUSION:**How did Paul face his persecutors?**

1. Always looking forward
 - Keeping his eyes on the prize and thereby always looking ahead
2. Practicing joy amid affliction

Might we do the same!

- I Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.