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 be 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.