

Approved of God

Intro. Sal by grace, but some things in Xnty on works and reward basis. Background of this verse. Show what things in P's life God used to test him and to find out if he was a proven quantity.

Difficulties of

I. Approved in Studies.

- A. Chronology. Acts 9:22 Gal 1:17 then Acts 9:23.
- B. Activity. Learning truth of God for 3 yrs. But don't forget he was building on 20 previous yrs of study in Rabbinical schools.
- C. Activity did not include witnessing. Didn't dry up.
- C. Approved bec Hed found He could trust him with studying. And P passed. His epistles show that.

Difficulties of

II. Approved in Surroundings.

- A. Chronology. Arabia, Damascus, Jerusalem, Tarsus. Acts 9:23-31. Then next mention in 11:25. P home about 7 years.
- B. Surroundings. Gone off to be rabbi. Home boy turned Xn. Don't know whether lived with family or separately but did live in same city. No Xn church to help. Prob no other Xns there at time.
- C. Approved in this. Showed he could live Xn life in diff. surroundings before God gave him public ministry at age 45.

III. Approved in Difficulties of Service.

- A. Chronology. Up to writing of 1 Thess P had had 1 journey and 1 church fight.
- B. Activity.
 - 1. Opposition. Stoned at Lystra, Acts 14:19.
 - 2. Disappointment. Jn Mark returned from Perga.
 - 3. Doctrinal differences. Judaisers who were brethren, Acts 15:5. P didn't say "Let's look at the 95% with which we agree." Stood for truth and against men who held error.
- C. Approved in difficulties of service, and then God

God was seen