

"Trials of Primitive Christianity" # 4

1-The three causes already discussed.

- 1-The teaching of Christ antagonized religious autocracy.
 - 1-Those with independent or self-derived authority (religious authority) uncontrolled
- 2-The teaching of Christ antagonized the social aristocracy:
 - 1-These imagined themselves to be a privileged class....They regarded themselves to be superior to the rest of the community: as in rank; wealth, or intellect.
- 3-The teaching of Christ finally antagonized the masses:
 - 1-Jesus condemned their procedure in the temple...Matt. 21-12:16.
 - 2-The chief priest and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did..They were sore displeased
- 1-Saul of Tarsus, while a Pharisee of the "strictest sect" (Acts 26:5), was one of the most relentless enemies of the primitive church
 - 1-He is introduced in the divine record as the young man who assisted in the stoning of Stephen...Acts 7:58.
 - 2-He wrought havoc with the church at Jerusalem; He seized the disciple and put them in prison...Acts 8:1-3
 - 3-Saul gave his voice against them in the Sanhedrin and compelled them to blaspheme the name of Christ by different methods of torture, and even persecuted them "unto strange cities. (Acts 26:9-11).
- 2-While on the way from Jerusalem to Damascus:
 - 1-The light fell around him;fell to his knees blinded etc.(Acts 9:1-6).
 - 2-Paul realized for the first time that he had been persecuting the church, hence; he had been persecuting Christ, for he is the head of the church(Eph.1:22-23)

3-Therefore, as our previous discussions dealt with the persecutions of Christ while He was in the flesh, this discussion will deal with the persecutions of the ascended Christ...

- 1-As the supreme head over,
- 2-And the animating spiritual influence of HIS BODY, the church..(Eph.1:22-23)

- 1-The conflict with Judaism:
 - 1-The church was born with this enemy.
 - 2-Pharisaic Judaism had hounded Jesus to the death of the cross because He denounced its ostentation and hypocrisy.
- 3-Scarcely had the Blind fury calvary subsided in the hearts of the Jewish leaders until it was again aroused in the wonderful happenings of Pentecost, in which Christianity appeared as THE TRUE SYSTEM OF RELIGION.....
- 4#Thousand of Jews began to turn from Judaism to Christ.....The Jewish leaders hated this new doctrine....Why.....
 - 1-They did not stop to consider the truth of it.....
 - 2-They hated it because they feared it.
 - 3-They feared it because it was destroying their power.
 - 4-They feared it because it was breaking up their established systems.....
- 2-The church appeared not as a rival sect, but as the only true system, to the exclusion of all sects.....
 - 1-It claimed to set aside Jewish law altogether Rom. 3:20; Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight Rom.10:4; For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth (Also; Gal.3:24-25; Col.2:13-17)
 - 2-It narrowed the matter of salvation down to ONE NAME....the name of Jesus;Acts 4:11-12.

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