

**SNAPSHOT #4**

*. . . in journeys often,
in perils of waters, in
perils of robbers, in
perils of my own
countrymen, in perils of
the Gentiles, in perils in
the city, in perils in the*

*wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false
brethren;*

II Corinthians 11:26

For the past three weeks we have looked at the sequence of God's miracles that produced our church. God took delight and what he did. God, however, was not the only one who noticed. *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

I Peter 5:8

Satan did not let our church go unnoticed. Like Paul testifies above, Satan caused perils from all around. There were problems within the church and without. I will not enumerate all of them, just a few significant ones.

Trouble from within. In previous churches we have encountered people whose ministry appeared to be stirring up trouble. When we started Berean Bible, we prayed very earnestly and consistently that the Lord would keep such people out of our church. I could give you quite a list of people who have come, joined our church, and then moved on by the Lord - I won't.

I will mention Mr. And Mrs X as they exemplify these people. Just about every week Mrs. X would call Gail (and others, I suppose) to complain about this and that in the church. Finally, one Saturday morning at a work day, I felt I had enough of it. "Mrs. X," I said, "will you come in the church office for a minute?" She did. I asked, "Do you lay awake at night thinking of things you can complain about?" She replied, "Oh dear, I guess I do complain a lot." It wasn't long after that they left our church. Just recently, Gail received a phone call from another church in town. "Do you know Mr. And Mrs. X?" they asked. When Gail said she did, they asked, "Are they trouble makers?"

I feel sorry for some of the other churches in town that the Lord has moved all these trouble makers to!

Trouble from without. The leadership of another church in town was bound and determined not to let Berean Bible happen. They sent spies to our informational meetings. Officers drove around our parking lot, counting cars. They did a number of things I won't mention. I will mention just one thing that illustrates the Lord's hand in it all.

Several months after we began, a person at the other church brought their news release to the Times-Press Recorder's Church Editor. They complain quite loudly that Berean Bible was getting much better coverage than they were.

The editor told them that if, instead of scribbling their news release on the back of an envelope, they typed it up, double spaced, like Gail did, she could give them better coverage. What was the result of this? It apparently made the editor very angry because, for the next few months, our news got even better coverage than it did before.

I believe this is just an illustration of what Joseph meant when he said to his brothers, *But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day . . .*

Genesis 50:20

Wayne

