

ACTS 29:1-14

¹ And it came to pass, when Paul was at Corinth, he and certain disciples came upon a mob that was stoning an organist. ² And Paul said unto them, “What hath he done unto thee that his head should be bruised?”

³ And the people cried with one voice, “He hath played too loud. ⁴ Yea, in the singing of psalms, he maketh our heads to ring as if they were beaten with hammers. ⁵ Behold, he sitteth up high in the loft, and mighty are the pipes and the noise thereof, and though there be few of us below, he nonetheless playeth with all the stops, the Assyrian trumpet stop and the stop of the ram’s horn and the stop that soundeth like the sawing of stone, and we cannot hear the words that cometh out of our own mouths. ⁶ He always tosseth in variations that confuse us mightily and he playeth too discordant and always in a militant tempo, so that we have not time to breathe as we sing. ⁷ Lo, he is a plague upon the faith and should be chastised.”

⁸ Paul, upon hearing this, himself picked up a small stone and was about to cast it, but he set it down, and bade the organist come forward. ⁹ He was a narrow man, pale of complexion, dry, flaking, thin of hair. ¹⁰ And Paul said unto him, “Why hast thou so abused thy brethren?”

¹¹ And the organist replied, “I could not hear them singing from whence I sat, and therefore played all the louder to encourage them.”

¹² And Paul turned round to the mob and cried, “Let him who hath never played the organ cast the first stone!”

¹³ And they all cast stones for a while until their arms were tired and Paul bade the organist repent and he did. ¹⁴ And Paul said unto him, “Thou shalt take up the flute and play it for thirty days to cleanse thy spirit,” and afterward they returned to Corinth and sang psalms unaccompanied and had coffee and were refreshed in the faith.