

I. PAUL'S MISSION

- A. Paul was escorted over 60 from Jerusalem to Caesarea by the Romans
 - 1. His FOURTH missionary journey had begun
 - a. He didn't have to raise support or go on deputation
 - b. It didn't cost his church any money or time
 - c. The Roman Government paid for this trip
 - 2. Paul was a Roman citizen, and this fact came in very useful to him
 - a. ACTS 22:27 – “Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.”
 - b. ACTS 16:37 – “But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.”
 - c. He had a great many advantages
 - i. Likely a wealthy family, sent Paul to study under Gamaliel
 - ii. Sent his young nephew as well (in Chapter 23)
 - iii. ACTS 21:39 – “But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.”
 - 3. But he counted his relationship to Israel better
 - a. PHIL. 3:5 – “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;”
 - b. He had great burden for his people, but was called to win Gentiles
 - c. ROM. 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:”
- B. Their accusations against him were in hearsay
 - 1. ACTS 21:28 – “Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.”
 - 2. He had not done that – he was obedient to the Law of God
 - 3. ACTS 21:29 – “(For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)”
- C. Paul spent FIVE days in Herod's Judgement Hall (vs. 1)
 - 1. Waiting for his accusers to come stand against him
 - 2. They had gotten their stories together and hired an “orator”
 - 3. They didn't realize that they were up against, not just an equal, a better

II. PAUL'S INDICTMENT

- A. Tertullus was a Roman lawyer, expert in Law, Customs, and FLATTERY (vs. 2-3)
 1. His opening statement buttered up Felix
 - a. He commented on the power of Felix (enjoyed quietness)
 - b. He praised the greatness of Felix (mighty deeds done)
 - c. He gushed about the nobleness of Felix (accept with thankfulness)
 2. But I get the distinct idea that his flattery fell flat (vs. 4)
 - a. TEDIOUS – “Wearisome; tiresome from continuance, often a discourse when it wearies by its length or dullness”
 - b. Had Felix told him to get on with it?
 3. Tertullus is a shameless flatterer
 4. PROV. 29:5 – “A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.”
- B. The charges against Paul were brought (vs. 5-9)
 1. A PEST – “pestilent fellow” meaning low character (a fly or a bug)
 2. A MOVER OF SEDITION – stirring up trouble
 - a. Disturbing the peace, i.e., an enemy of the Roman Empire
 - b. Less, than rebellion, less than insurrection
 - c. SEDITION – “A local or limited insurrection in opposition to civil authority”
 - d. Saying Paul is extremely danger BUT ALSO small potatoes
 - e. Reminder: Who had ACTUALLY disturbed the peace?
 3. A RELIGIOUS FANTATIC
 - a. The “ringleader” (I guess they’d never met Peter)
 - b. They said he’d gone crazy over this “Salvation” business
 - c. He’d lost his mind over the Resurrection and Return of Jesus
 - d. Reminder: Who had vowed not to eat until they killed Paul?
 4. A RANK HERETIC
 - a. A “profaner of the Temple”
 - b. That Paul, who had been worshipping lawfully in the Temple
 - c. Had no regard for the Temple - no regard for Jewish worship
 - d. Worshipping Jesus Christ is the most JEWISH thing Paul could do!
- C. The charges were played up, but were all false
 1. They even claimed the Captain had been “VIOLENT”
 - a. Accusing the Captain (who had acted VERY wisely and honorably)
 - b. When the Captain Lysias was not there to defend himself!
 2. And when Tertullus had ended his speech, all the Jews assented
 3. Can you imagine, this group that HATED the Romans
 - a. Now placing their stamp of approval on the Roman Law
 - b. It must have tasted like ashes in their mouths
 - c. That’s how far hatred can take a person

III. PAUL'S DEFENSE

- A. The Jews had Tertullus, but Paul had... Paul (and the Holy Spirit of God)
 - 1. MATT. 10:17-19 – “But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; (18) And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. (19) But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.”
 - 2. Paul had the best education money could buy
 - 3. ACTS 22:3 – “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.”
- B. Paul said he would CHEERFULLY answer for himself (vs. 10)
 - 1. Wonder where he got that word? Cheerful? ACTS 23:11
 - 2. The Lord Himself told him to have “good cheer”
 - 3. We should be CHEERFUL and JOYFUL in our service to Jesus
- C. Paul declared that all the accusations were false
- D. Not only that, how could ALL of that have happened in only 12 days? (vs. 11)

IV. PAUL'S CONFESSION

- A. Paul without EQUIVICATION identifies himself with the Christians (v. 14a)
 - 1. He believes the OT scriptures (v. 14b)
 - a. They all point to Jesus Christ
 - b. ROM. 4:3 – “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”
 - c. Back to Gen. 3:15, the Word of God told us of the Savior!
 - d. And Paul placed his HOPE only in God (vs. 15a)
 - e. And he believed in RESURRECTIONS (vs. 15b)
 - i. Two of them – one for the just and one for the unjust
 - ii. The first at the Rapture, second at the end of Millennium
 - iii. Paul agreed with DAN. 12:2 – “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”
 - 2. Paul confesses his conscience was clear towards God and Man (vs. 16)
 - a. He had not violated the Law (in the Temple, toward God)
 - b. He had been SAVED from his sin in Jesus Christ
 - 3. Paul confesses his PURPOSE in the Jerusalem (vs. 17)
 - a. One of benevolence and almsgiving
 - b. 1 COR. 16:1-3 – “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. (2)

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. (3) And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.”

- B. This legal drama has echoes in the courtroom of Eternity
 - 1. There once was a meeting in Heaven, and Satan showed up
 - a. God asked him where he had been
 - b. JOB 1:7 – “And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.”
 - i. He does! The Bible says up and down and to and fro
 - ii. As a ROARING lion seeking whom he may devour
 - c. JOB 1:8 – “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”
 - 2. What if God asked Satan about you? What if it had been YOUR name?
 - 3. He is called the ACCUSER of the brethren in REV. 12:10 (don’t turn)
- C. The problem is Satan’s accusations are TRUE! He accuses you and I of sin
 - 1. He, like Tertullus, is a great prosecutor. He knows the law, in and out.
 - 2. ROM. 3:23 – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
 - 3. And he knows the PENALTY for any sin: DEATH
 - 4. ROM. 6:23a – “For the wages of sin is death;”
 - 5. And for many people, that’s where that verse ends. How sad! How tragic!
 - 6. They don’t hire a Heavenly Defense Attorney
 - a. We even use the TITLE counselor in courtrooms today
 - b. ISA. 9:6 – “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
 - c. But no HUMAN attorney will take on the penalty for a guilty client
 - 7. ROM. 6:23b - “but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

V. PAUL’S SALVATION

- A. Paul placed his trust solely in Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus
 - 1. He made Jesus the LORD of his life – believed God, like Abraham did
 - 2. You can too – and then you won’t face the penalty of your sin
 - 3. You too can have a Heavenly Advocate take your place
- B. And, just like the Hebrew Children in Egypt, when God sees the Blood
 - 1. He will PASS over you – you can be SAVED, but only under the Blood
 - 2. Only by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross – AQUITTED!
- C. Be Saved TODAY!