

I. PAUL BEGINS HIS DEFENSE

- A. He stands before King Agrippa, but King Agrippa stands before God
  - 1. Remember, this was prophesied by Jesus Christ Himself
    - a. MATT. 10:18 – “And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.”
    - b. Paul will get to speak even before the household of Caesar
    - c. PHIL. 4:22 – “All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.”
  - 2. It is important to have context BEFOREHAND on King Agrippa
    - a. Paul proclaims a most AMAZING thing in this chapter
    - b. Look down in ACTS 26:27 – “King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.”
    - c. How could Paul say that so authoritatively?
  - 3. This is King Agrippa who was the LAST of the HERODS!
    - a. Grandfather murdered all the baby boys after the birth of Christ
    - b. His great uncle had murdered John the Baptist for speaking Truth
      - i. And while frightened of John the Baptist's power with God
      - ii. Allowed his beheading after stepdaughter's sensual dance
      - iii. To please his wicked wife whom he had wickedly married
      - iv. A wife who had been his sister-in-law!
    - c. This Agrippa's father who had consented to the Crucifixion
    - d. This VERY Agrippa's father pretended to be God ACTS 12:20-25
  - 4. Paul KNOWS King Agrippa is WELL-QUALIFIED EXPERT in Jewish custom
- B. Paul answers for himself (vs. 3) – WE ALSO SHOULD ANSWER FOR OURSELVES
  - 1. But answering for ourselves requires STUDY of the Word!
    - a. 2 TIM. 2:15 – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
    - b. 1 PETER 3:15 – “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”
    - c. It is our DUTY to answer as Christians!
  - 2. Paul had no human attorney – he had a heavenly ADVOCATE
  - 3. 1 JOHN 2:1 – “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”
- C. He asked the King PATIENTLY listen to him – listening is key to understanding
  - 1. He recounted the manner of his life (vs. 4-5)
  - 2. He had lived in Jerusalem for sometime and was KNOWN there
    - a. He said his adversaries would have to ADMIT it (vs. 5)

- b. "If they would testify" – they would be compelled to agree
- 3. He claimed to have followed the MOST religious sect (Pharisee)
  - a. King Agrippa knew what that actually meant!
  - b. PHIL. 3:4-7 – "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: (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; (6) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. (7) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."
  - c. There is no mystery who Paul was and is!
  - d. There should be no mystery with us either! Live out loud!

## II. PAUL BEING JUDGED

- A. Paul cut through the noise and went straight to the true matter (vs. 6)
  - 1. He was there because of the "HOPE OF THE PROMISE"
    - a. The promise was that Christ would come to earth and die
    - b. That Christ would be buried and that He would RISE AGAIN!
    - c. 1 COR. 15:3-4 – "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"
- B. This HOPE was promised from the EARLIEST Scripture – GEN. 3:15 – "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
- C. This HOPE was echoed throughout the Old Testament – ISA 7:14 – "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
- D. This PROPHECY tells of His Death and Resurrection – PSA. 49:9 – "That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption."

## III. PAUL BEFORE SALVATION

- A. Paul tells of his life before he knew the Lord Jesus Christ
  - 1. He did MANY things CONTRARY to the name of Jesus
    - a. Many people feel the same way – their "DUTY" to deny God
    - b. You see this in the atheist crowd, the infidels and the in-for-hells
    - c. They take it as a PERSONAL insult that you believe in God
  - 2. Why? Because they ACTUALLY know the truth
    - a. ROM. 2:15 – "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

- b. They might be able to fool everyone else, but they can't fool God!
    - c. The LAW is written in the heart of Man – 1 SAM 16:7 – “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”
  - 3. Know that the person you speak to really does know (down deep inside)
- B. Paul talks about his persecution of the Saints of God (vs. 10-11)
  - 1. He knows exactly what he was thinking and what he was doing
    - a. That's the thing with a testimony – no one can argue with you!
      - i. Tweet the other day: “You have probably grown up thinking that Calvinism is the doctrine of devils.”
      - ii. ABSOLUTELY NOT! I came to that conclusion after careful study of the Word of God.
    - b. Not legitimate to claim special knowledge of another's mind
    - c. When people tell you who they are, listen to them!
  - 2. They may not BELIEVE you. They may not AGREE with you
    - a. But they cannot ARGUE with you.
    - b. Give people your testimony of Salvation!
    - c. Tell them what GREAT THINGS God has done in your life!
    - d. We have examples of this throughout Scripture – MARK 3:8 – “And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.”
  - 3. He persecuted the Saints
    - a. He did many things against the name of Jesus
    - b. He gave his VOICE against them
      - i. At the stoning of Stephen, he consented – ACTS 7:58 – “And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.”
      - ii. He ACTED against them – ACTS 8:3 – “As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”
    - c. He created HAVOCK among that church in Jerusalem
- C. And then he met Jesus on the road to Damascus and EVERYTHING changed!

#### IV. PAUL BELIEVES JESUS

- A. Paul believed God and (like Abraham) it was counted unto him for righteousness
  - 1. Even though he was on a mission of persecution
    - a. It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done
    - b. 2 PETER 3:9 – “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not

willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

- c. All means ALL
2. He gives Agrippa the facts of what happened (vs. 12-13)
  - a. At midday (it wasn't a disturbed dream at midnight)
  - b. He saw a light brighter than the sun (and no wonder)
  - c. 1 JOHN 1:5-7 – “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
3. He heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him (vs. 14-15)
  - a. And we can hear the voice of God speaking to us this morning
  - b. Not in an audible sound, but through His COMPLETED Holy Bible
  - c. Even right now, the Word of God is being preached
  - d. Even right now, the Holy Spirit of God confirming the WORD
  - e. Even right now, Jesus Christ is being lift up high!
  - f. We know the PROMISE He made – JOHN 12:32 – “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”
- B. Paul was commanded to “stand upon thy feet” (vs. 16-17)
  1. We too, as Christians, need to stand fast in the Lord
    - a. 1 COR. 16:13 – “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”
    - b. GAL. 5:1 – “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”
  2. Paul was set upon a mission, a mission for his entire life
- C. And those of us who are Saved have the same mission!

## V. PAUL BEGS AUDIENCE

- A. Even this morning Paul is begging audience with YOU! Your attention to Eternity
  1. What will you do with Jesus Christ? No one has more excuse than Paul
  2. You cannot claim to be beyond hope!
  3. 1 TIM. 1:15 – This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”
- B. If Paul is the chiefest of sinners, and the Lord saved HIM – He can save ANYONE
- C. He wants to save YOU
  1. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ – His Death, Burial, and Resurrection
  2. Turn from yourself and your sin, and put your trust in HIM
  3. Be Saved Today!