

I. PAUL EXPLAINS HIS COMMISSION

- A. He was sent to be a witness and a minister (vs. 6)
 - 1. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself told Ananias in Chapter 9:
 - a. ACTS 9:15 – “But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:”
 - i. We’ve focused on one part of that in the last few chapters.
 - ii. Paul was SPECIFICALLY preaching to governors and kings.
 - b. But remember the ENTIRE verse says that was a chosen vessel.
 - c. That Paul would bear the name of Jesus (Gentiles and Jews)
 - 2. He would also suffer as a minister!
 - 3. ACTS 9:16 – “For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.”
- B. He was sent by the Lord (vs. 17) not a “denomination.”
 - 1. Churches do not call missionaries and preachers.
 - 2. Neither do denominations, boards, conventions, nor mommies.
 - 3. Only the LORD calls men to preach – 1 TIM. 1:12 – “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;” (Testimony)
- C. He was to expound and preach one message and one message only! (vs. 18)
 - 1. 1 COR. 2:2 – “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”
 - 2. That is our calling as well! We are called to be a witness and a minister!
 - 3. 2 COR. 5:18 – “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”

II. PAUL EXPOUNDS HIS CONFESSION

- A. Paul exposed his obedience to “THE HEAVENLY CALL” (vs. 19)
- B. Paul expounded the message he was sent to preach – OBEDIENTLY (vs. 20)
 - 1. He preached a Message in the right order:
 - a. Repentance – A godly sorrow for sin with a change of mind toward God, agreeing with God about my disobedience.
 - b. Salvation – A gift that cannot be earned, provided only by the GRACE of God through the Blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross.
 - c. Evidence (sometimes called “works”) – The answer of a good conscience and obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Cannot go in any other order!!!

2. Jesus preached it! – LUKE 13:3 – “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” And LUKE 13:5 – “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 3. Paul was only echoing the TRUTH: EPH. 2:8-10 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
- C. Paul examined about his persecution of the Christians (vs. 21)
1. Now the persecutor is the one who is persecuted!
 2. MATT. 22:37-39 – “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
 3. Paul was living the operation of that very commandment.
 4. You can choose the sin, but you can’t choose the consequences!
- D. Paul extolled his PROOF of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ (vs. 22-23)
1. It was not done in a corner! It was available for everyone to SEE!
 2. That is the GOSPEL, after all, as Paul said himself in 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:”
 - a. There IS no Gospel without the resurrection!
 - b. Paul goes on to say in the same chapter – 1 COR. 15:19 – “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”

III. PAUL EXCUSES HIS CHARGE

- A. Festus charges Paul with MADNESS (vs. 24-26)
1. Quite a contrast between this passage and vs. 11!
 - a. Amazing what the world calls sane and what the world calls mad.
 - b. 2 TIM. 2:25 – “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”
 2. It is NOT madness: LUKE 9:25 – “For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”
 3. In the clear light of reason, it is the ONLY sane thing to do!
- B. Paul denies the charge of madness (he was obviously COOL and rational)
- C. He instead appeals to Agrippa – these things were out in the open! (not a corner)

IV. PAUL ENTREATS HIS CAPTORS

- A. Paul APPEALS to his captors, he had PROVEN from the SCRIPTURES

1. That Jesus was MESSIAH – 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.”
 2. There is NO OTHER. None before, none yet-to-come!
 3. ACTS 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
- B. Paul was using everything in his power to PERSUADE King Agrippa
1. His goal was not focused on his freedom or personal gain.
 2. His goal was that King Agrippa should get SAVED (become a believer)
 3. We should be doing the same at every opportunity!
 - a. The old saying, “That guy will fight at the drop of a hat and then drop it himself!”
 - b. We should be the same in witnessing.
 - i. Absolutely TAKE every opportunity
 - ii. But also MAKE an opportunity!
 - c. Paul had put everything else out of his mind for Agrippa’s sake.
 4. Think about that for a moment!
 - a. 2 COR. 5:11 – “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”
 - b. 2 COR 5:9 – “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.”
- C. Agrippa REJECTS the Gospel that could SAVE HIS ETERNAL SOUL (vs. 28)
1. Let’s not lose sight of what happened in that courtroom that day.
 2. Agrippa decided that he would rather stay “as is” instead of GOD.
 - a. He chose the fires of Hell rather than an eternity in Heaven.
 - b. He chose to turn away from the free gift of Salvation.
 3. He was ALMOST BUT LOST
 - a. And even now, today in Hell, Agrippa is crying ALMOST!
 - b. ALMOST! was a Christian!
 - c. Almost is not enough. Almost is entirely short of the mark.
 - d. Almost saved is altogether lost.
- D. Paul appeals to all of them present in the chamber (vs. 29)
1. In chains, Paul was richer and freer than any other person there.
 2. There is LIBERTY in Christ Jesus alone (not what the world calls freedom)
 3. JOHN 8:36 – “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

V. AGRIPPS EXITS THE CHAMBER

- A. They admitted Paul innocence in private – they knew Paul was in the right!
1. But excused their own inaction with Paul’s appeal to Caesar.

2. They decided that the laws of Rome must run their course.
 3. But if so, why all the effort and hearing?
- B. Of course, we know God's plan that Paul would be a witness in Rome.
1. ACTS 23:11 – “And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”
 2. And he would! Even unto Caesar's own household!
- C. But think about Agrippa that day.
1. Under deep conviction, listening to the Gospel he KNEW to be true!
 - a. Paul even pointed out how obvious it was. “I know you believe.”
 - b. There was no question!
 2. But think about what Agrippa did – he RAN.
 - a. He stood, and I believe the context is, SUDDENLY.
 - b. I believe he couldn't get out of there fast enough!
 - c. He couldn't sit still or be comfortable – UNDER CONVICTION
 3. He exited the chamber, instead of turning to God he ran away.
 4. What about you today? Is the Holy Spirit convicting your heart of sin?
 - a. Agrippa knew the truth but ran and NEVER got another chance.
 - b. What about you today? What will you do with the Truth?
 - c. Be Saved Today!