

## PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA ACTS 26

“For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him.” That was the way Acts 25 ended. Paul was a prisoner in Caesarea at this time. Agrippa, Bernice, the chief captains, principal men of the city, Festus the governor and others are gathered because Agrippa had requested to hear this man. Agrippa made the statement in Acts 26:1 to Paul, “thou art permitted to speak for thyself,” and with that we begin our lesson today.

### I. Paul Before King Agrippa (Acts 26)

#### A. Thou art permitted to speak...

1. The permission Agrippa gave Paul to speak was an opportunity to preach Jesus.
2. Opportunity given . . . opportunity taken.
3. Paul was happy to answer.
  - a. Acts 24:10
  - b. Acts 25:8
  - c. Answer the thing of which I am accused.
4. Answer for self.
  - a. What about us?
  - b. What about opportunities we have?
  - c. Could we answer (I Peter 3:15)?
  - d. II Timothy 2 :24
5. Paul’s tribute to Agrippa.
  - a. I know thee to be an expert... (knower)
  - b. Paul recognized Agrippa’s knowledge, understanding, perception and ability to speak on this matter.
  - c. Contrast with Festus’s lack of knowledge.
6. Hear me patiently (James 1:19).

#### B. Paul Manner of Life (26:4-8).

1. The Jews knew how he had lived from youth.
  - a. They could testify concerning it, if they would.
  - b. I have lived...a Pharisee (v.5).
  - c. Psalm 71:5, 17
2. I stand and am judged.
  - a. The Jews hope in the same promise.
  - b. Promise made to the Fathers (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3). Many more recorded.
  - c. The twelves tribes hope to attain this promise.
3. It is not an incredible thing that God raises dead people.

#### C. Paul’s Conversion.

1. I verily thought...
  - a. Paul covers his conversions again (details here and 9 and 22).
  - b. I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
  - c. Paul’s own conversion is proof that Jesus is Messiah.
2. Jesus spoke to Saul in Hebrew tongue (v.14).
3. Appeared before me to make me a minister and a witness.
  - a. A minister, a servant.
  - b. A witness of Jesus Christ– qualify as an apostle.

#### D. Go to the Gentiles (26:17-18).

1. Open their eyes. . . the eyes of their understanding (Col. 1:13).
2. Turn from darkness. . .from power of Satan.

- a. Expresses a purpose.
  - b. Turn from darkness to light.
- 3. Receive forgiveness of sins.
  - a. Thru gospel being preached and obeyed.
  - b. Acts 2:38; 3:19; 22:16.
- E. Paul's Obedience (26:19-23).
  - 1. I was not disobedient...
    - a. Paul did what the Lord wanted him to do.
      - (1) Him personally obeying the gospel.
      - (2) Sharing God's word with others.
  - 2. Started working where he was (v.20)—Damascus.
    - a. Through-out the coasts of Judaea.
    - b. Then to the Gentiles.
  - 3. They should repent and turn to God.
    - a. Forgiveness must be preceded by repentance.
    - b. Turn to God.
    - c. Perform deed appropriate to the repentance they profess.
  - 4. This is why the Jews are trying to kill me (v.21).
  - 5. God has helped me reach this day.
  - 6. I am simply preaching what the prophets and Moses did say should come.
  - 7. The suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. (I Cor. 15:20).
  - 8. Show light to Jew and Gentile.
- F. Interchange between Festus, Paul and Agrippa (26:24-29).
  - 1. Festus interrupts him: "You are beside yourself Paul!" (You are crazy. You have lost it!)
    - a. It seems Festus had no idea what Paul was talking about.
    - b. Paul's enthusiasm (in Festus' mind) had overcome his better judgment.
    - c. Your much learning doth make you mad! . . . [Such is possible]
  - 2. Paul's response.
    - a. I am not made, most noble Festus.
    - b. Paul, with courtesy and respect, answered Festus, then turned back to Agrippa (wisdom )
    - c. Paul's speech was based on truth and soberness (harmony of impulse and reason).
  - 3. King Agrippa knew these things in contrast to Festus.
    - a. These things were not hidden from him.... they were not done in a corner
      - (1) Ministry of Christ
      - (2) Death, burial, and resurrection
      - (3) Spread of the gospel.
  - 4. Paul's appeal.
    - a. Do yo believe?
      - (1) Paul knew the king could not believe the prophets and reject the apostolic discourse he delivered. The prophets had spoken of Christ.
      - (2) Paul said, "I know that you do believe." What about faith only???
    - b. He had said all this to bring him to this point. It's decision time for Agrippa.
  - 5. Verse 28...
    - a. "Almost..."
    - b. "With but little persuasion..." (ASV)
    - c. We are not sure whether Agrippa's response was sarcastic or was a serious response.
  - 6. Paul said, not only you, but all that hear me
    - a. With one sermon or one hundred...with little persuasion or great persuasion.!
    - b. Paul wanted them to be Christians like he was, with the exception of imprisonment.
    - c. His lone exception was not a character flaw or a reputation blemish

d. What exception would you and I have to give:

(1) Occasional lapses of profanity.

(2) Indifference

(3) Temper tantrums

(4) Hateful disposition

(5) Uncontrolled tongue

7. They arose and left.

G. Their conclusion

1. He has done nothing worthy of death.

a. Lysias–Acts 23:29

b. Felix–Acts 24:1ff

c. Festus–Acts 25:26,27

d. Agrippa–Acts 26:30,31

2. Because he appealed to Caesar, he must go to Caesar.

Con: Paul before Agrippa. Agrippa knew what Paul was talking about, but he refused to obey the teachings. Some of you present this day may be in the same situation. You are so close to being a Christian. You believe in God. You even attend the services. Something is holding you back. From all we can gather in the scriptures, none of this group ever became Christians. Don't let that happen to you. Almost persuaded, but lost! Paul said, altogether persuaded.