

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA  
Acts 25:23-27; 26:1-32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has been kept by Felix vs. 21
  - 1) He will send him to Caesar
  - 2) He has no charge to make
  
- B. He questions Agrippa vs. 14
  - 1) Agrippa consents to hear Paul vs. 22
  - 2) He will hear him, "on the morrow"
  
- C. The fantastic assembly vs. 23
  - 1) "great" + "pomp" = phantasia = "phantasy" = "pagentry"
  - 2) "Bernice, chief captains, principal men of the city"
  
- I. Paul is Introduced by Festus vs. 24-27
  - A. The Jews estimate of Paul
    - 1) They have dealt with him
    - 2) "he ought not to live any longer"
  
  - B. Festus' estimate of Paul vs. 27
    - 1) He does not deserve death
    - 2) I will send him to Caesar
    - 3) I don't have a charge
    - 4) "unreasonable" = alogos = "without the word", "without a reasonable explanation"
    - 5) "crimes" = aitia = "a cause", "ground", "a charge, whether true or false"
  
- II. Paul Answers For Himself 26:1
  - A. "thou are permitted to speak for thyself"
    - 1) "permitted" = epitrepo = "to turn or trust to another", "give up, yield", "suffer"
    - 2) "answer" = apologeomai = "to talk one's self out of a difficulty", "to defend one's self before a tribunal or elsewhere"
  
  - B. Paul counts this a blessing
    - 1) "happy" = makarios = "happy", "blessed" vs. 2
    - 2) I am accused, not guilty, accused
  
  - C. The source of Paul's optimism vs. 3
    - 1) "expert" = gnostes = "a knower", "one who knows"
    - 2) "patiently" = makrothumos = "long suffering"

- D. The real issue with the Jews vs. 4-9
- 1) Not my being a Jew vs. 5
  - 2) Not my early life-style vs. 4
  - 3) Not my morality vs. 5
  - 4) It is the resurrection from the dead vs. 6-8
  - 5) "incredible" = apistos = "not to be trusted"

- E. Paul's early attitude toward Jesus vs. 9-11
- 1) "I ought to do many things contrary it"
  - 2) "contrary" = enantios = "over-against", "opposite"
  - 3) "I imprisoned the saints" vs. 10
  - 4) "I gave my voice against them"
  - 5) "I punished them oft"
  - 6) "I compelled them to blaspheme"
  - 7) "I trailed them to strange cities because I was "mad" = emmainomai = "to rage, to be furious", and then I persecuted them.

- F. Paul's Damascus road experience vs. 12-18
- 1) It was at midday
  - 2) There was a light
  - 3) There was a voice
  - 4) There was a commission

- G. Paul's reaction to the encounter vs. 19-23
- 1) "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision" vs. 19
  - 2) To the Jews and to the Gentiles I preached, "repent and turn to God" and, "do works meet for repentance" vs. 20
  - 3) This is why I am here vs. 21

- H. Paul's immediate business vs. 22
- 1) "witnessing both to small and great" vs. 22
  - 2) "small" = mikro "great" = mega  
"I preach to the microscopic and the mega ones" vs. 22
  - 3) I say what the prophets and Moses said"
  - 4) Verse 23 - Paul's message

III. Festus' Reaction to Paul's Message vs. 24-25

- A. Festus thought Paul was insane vs. 24
- 1) "besides thyself" = maine = "to rage", "Paul, you are raging", "Paul, you are out of control mentally"
  - 2) "much learning" = gramma = "the thing written", "letters" Too much study has driven you mad!

- B. Paul's denial vs. 25
- 1) I am not mad!
  - 2) "truth" = alethes = "unconcealed", "open"
  - 3) "sobriety" = sophrosune = "soundness of mind", "prudence", = "dignified restraint"

- IV. Agrippa's Reaction to Paul's Answer vs. 26-27
  - A. Paul challenges Agrippa to decide vs. 26
    - 1) "The King knoweth of these things"
    - 2) "speak freely" = parresiazomai = "to speak boldly and openly"
    - 3) "None of these things are hidden from him"
    - 4) "They were not done in a corner"
  - B. "King Agrippa believest thou the prophets?"
    - 1) "I know that thou believest"
    - 2) This is not sarcasm
  - C. "Almost persuaded" vs. 28
    - 1) "almost" = en oligo = "in a short time" = "to a degree"
    - 2) "persuaded" = peitho = "to win by words"
    - 3) "To a small degree I am persuaded that what you say about Christianity is true", "I am brought a short distance by what you have said"
  - D. Paul demonstrates fully persuaded vs. 29
    - 1) "I pray to God"
    - 2) That all who hear me this day
    - 3) Were fully committed
    - 4) "except these bonds"
- V. The Verdict, of Agrippa vs. 30-32
  - A. This man does not deserve death vs. 30-31
    - 1) "when they had gone aside"
    - 2) "This man hath done nothing worthy of death" vs. 32
  - B. His appeal to Caesar keeps him bound
    - 1) "liberty" = apoluo = "to set loose", "free"
    - 2) Paul did not make a mistake

