

CP - 4/28/24

Acts 22:16–29 - Paul's Defense in Jerusalem, Part Two

Sermon Outline

*Paul always looked for opportunities to share the Gospel.

*Paul saw his circumstances as providential from God, including arrest. (Acts 20:22–23; 21:11)

*Paul saw his suffering as the opportunity to witness. (Luke 21:12-13)

Three Parts of a Christian's Testimony:

1. Our life before Christ (22:3–5)
2. Our conversion to Christ (22:6–16)
3. Our life since salvation in Christ (22:17-21)

1. Paul testified about his salvation in Christ. (22:16)

- Jesus sovereignly intervened, but Paul had to obey.
- Calling on Christ, not baptism, brings salvation.
 - Acts 8:13, 20–23: Simon was baptized but still lost.
 - Acts 10:44–48: Cornelius and family receive the Holy Spirit and are baptized later.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:17: Baptism is separated/distinguished from the gospel.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: Baptism not listed with the description of the gospel.
 - Romans 10:9–13: Paul's message for people to be saved.

2. Paul shared his commission from Christ. (22:17–23)

- Earlier, Paul wanted to stay in Jerusalem. (9:28–30, Gal. 1:15–19)
- Christ sent Paul to the Gentiles. (Acts 13:20)
- The temple mob rejected Paul's witness. (22:22–23)

3. Paul exercised his rights as a Roman citizen. (22:24–29)

- Paul knew he lived in two worlds as a Christian. (physical/spiritual identity)
- To share Christ, Paul sometimes did not use his rights.
 - Why did not mention his Roman citizenship before (21:39)?
HE WANTED TO IDENTIFY WITH JEWS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL!
- Paul showed gospel compassion to his captors.
 - The Valerian and Porcian Laws made it illegal to examine Roman citizens by flogging or flog Roman citizens without a trial; it also allowed citizens to appeal a sentence; anyone doing so to Roman citizens without following these laws would be severely punished, even killed

Application:

- **What is your testimony? Do you have a testimony of salvation?**
- **Do you believe God orders your circumstances for you to share?**
- **Do you have compassion for those you share with?**
- **WILL YOU SHARE?**

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Bible passage and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. What are the three parts of every Christian's testimony? Discuss the three parts and why they are important to distinguish and share with others.
3. What was Paul's plan for his life and ministry? How did this plan not fit in with God's plan for Paul? What did God have in store for Paul outside of Jerusalem? Discuss.
4. What was the crowd's response to Paul's testimony? Have you ever experienced rejection after sharing with someone else? How did you respond, and what did you do after? How did you process the rejection?
5. Discuss Paul's exercise of his Roman rights before he was to be flogged. Why did he not speak about his Roman citizenship earlier, and what was he trying to accomplish then? What are some areas where we are quick to exercise our rights and miss God's plan for the situation? What was Paul's motivation to avoid the beating?
6. When was the last time you share the gospel or your testimony of salvation with someone? Who can you share with this week? Pray for these people and your witness.