

CP – 9/1/24

Acts 26: Paul's Defense before Agrippa, Part 2
Conversion Leads to Commission

The Characters of Paul's Defense:

Festus – Roman Procurator of Judea, ruling from 59/60–62 AD

Agrippa II – Great-grandson of Herod the Great; son of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12); brother of Drusilla, Felix's wife; ruled 47 years (53– c. 100 AD).

Bernice – Agrippa II's younger sister, whom she lived with (strange, sinful relationship)

Paul – Zealous Jew; former persecutor of Christians; now apostle and prisoner

***Paul continues his defense before Agrippa, Bernice, & Festus. (5th defense in Acts)

- **This defense is not centered on Paul's conversion but his commission.**
- While Paul does share parts of his conversion, he does so to focus on his commission from Christ. Christ saves His people to commission us!
- V. 12 - "In this connection" - God can even use our sin/rebellion to put us in the place where he accomplishes his purposes! Oh the wisdom and grace of God!

1. Christ commissioned Paul with a new life purpose. (v. 12–17)

- Christ appointed Paul as His servant.
- Christ appointed Paul as His witness.
- Every Christian's purpose is to know Christ, serve Him, & share about Him.

2. Christ commissioned Paul with a new ministry. (v. 18)

- To open people's eyes to their condition and need
 - People are spiritually deceived about their condition.
- To see them move from darkness to light (People are spiritually blind)
- To see them move from Satan to God (People live under Satan's control)
- To see them receive forgiveness of sin (People are guilty before God)
- To see them become part of God's people (People have no standing with God)

3. Christ commissioned Paul with a new message. (v. 19–23)

- A message to everyone, everywhere
- A message to repent of sin & turn to God
- A message to demonstrate a new life
- The message is centered on Christ!

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon on Sunday morning? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. ****Only discuss if you did not get to Question 4 last week****
Discuss how Christ intervened into Paul's life. Discuss how God even providentially used Paul's circumstances to persecute the church to make him part of the church. Do you believe that God can use our mistakes & sin (while never approving/condoning them) to still accomplish His purposes? Discuss.
3. What does it mean that conversion leads to commission? How does this idea change the way we view the Christian life? Discuss the difference in "God exists to bless/serve me" and "I exist for God and His glory." Where have you seen both views in the culture (and sadly) in the church?
4. To what new life purpose did Christ commission Paul? (His servant, His witness) Discuss these two purposes and how they impact the way we live every day.
5. To new ministry did Christ commission Paul? Discuss how this new ministry aimed to address the great spiritual needs of people. (Meaning, what do we learn here about people's spiritual condition?) Which most stands out to you?
6. What was Paul's message from Christ? How does each part of the message address the great spiritual needs of people? Which most stands out to you? Which most (if any) do we often not hear today?