

Valiant Defense

Acts 22

- 52-57AD 3rd Journey & trip to Jerusalem
- End of 3rd Missionary Journey
- Paul has just tearfully left the Ephesian Elders
- Ch. 21 ends with Paul being beaten, threatened, and he is at the top of a staircase with his hand outstretched and he begins his speech in Ch. 22.

1. Paul's Defense – Acts 22:1-21

- 1 – Defense: Apologia: apology [1 Peter 3:15]
- 2 – established rapport
- 3 – has to win their confidence before preaching Jesus; Gamaliel died 5 yrs. Ago
- 4 – way = Christianity
- 5 – Elder = Jewish leader; Ananias HP [23:3]
- 6 – Farthest thing on his mind was becoming Christian
- 7 – doesn't use "resurrection;" they knew
- 9 – companions could still be in Jerusalem
- 10 – P always knew what he was doing before
- 11-13 – P spoke of Ananias not as a Chr. But favorable to the Jewish audience
- 14 – P eyewitness of the Righteous One
- 15 – Gentiles included in "all men"
- 16 – Paul did not hesitate; spiritual washing
- 17 – ready to speak of divine commission
- 18-20 – P argued w/ the Lord [Peter, Ac. 10]
- 21 – P wanted to stay in Jerusalem but God told him "GO!"

2. Perplexed Commander – Acts 22:22-30

- 22 – "Gentiles" as far as P got; revolted
- 23 – McGarvey: "Vented their rage like maddened beasts." [New Comm., Vol. 2]

- 24 – Roman commander probably did not understand Aramaic; scourging 2nd worst punishment after crucifixion; 1st R beating
- 25 – same place Jesus was scourged?
- 26 – single question turned torturers into tortured
- 27 – might have been hard to believe at first
- 28 – citizenship: born in Rome/Roman colony or having it bestowed for unusual service rendered; could be illegally bought (named after emperor, Claudius 41-54AD – scandalous)
- 29 – Cicero: misdeed to bind a Roman (Paul bound for 2 yrs. In 28:20)
- 30 – Commander now in a bind; P’s beaten body stood tall before Supreme Court of Jewish people > stood where Peter, John, other Apostles stood; where Stephen stood; where His Lord had stood.
 - Stood w/ the council yrs. ago; now he is against

Lessons:

1. Don’t be afraid to stand up for what you know to be true.
2. The only way to be saved is to “call upon the name of the Lord (obedience: hear, believe, repent, confess, baptism)!”
3. In the face of adversity, stand tall.

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Additional notes on Acts available online, above.

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