

## **PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA**

### **Acts 26:1-32**

#### **Introduction**

1. Paul once tried to destroy the Christian Way (Acts 9:1, 2).
2. As God's purpose would have it, Paul became a defender of the way which he once earnestly sought to destroy.
  - a. There are numerous passages which record Paul's defense of Christianity.
  - b. Paul defense before Agrippa is especially stirring.
3. Though Paul stood before Agrippa, it was the Christian Way that was on trial.

#### **I. THE MOTIVATION**

- A. God's love for Paul
  1. Paul had to be a firm believer in God's great love.
  2. Paul included himself as a recipient of God's love.
    - a. Romans 5:6-8
    - b. Ephesians 2:4
    - c. Ephesians 5:2
  3. Paul credited his salvation to the love/mercy of God.
    - a. Paul often described himself as a sinner snatched from the jaws of spiritual death by the grace of God (1 Timothy 1:15)
    - b. 1 Corinthians 15:9, 10
  4. In addition to the love that God had shown to Paul, God had a purpose for Paul (Acts 26:16-18).
- B. Paul's love for God
  1. Bible readers have been privileged to read Paul's inspired discourse on love (1 Corinthians 13).
    - a. God is love (1 John 4:8).
    - b. One could substitute the word "God" for every time the word "love" appears in 1 Corinthians 13.
  2. Paul lived his life as one who loves God.
- C. Paul's love for the lost
  1. Acts 26:29
  2. Paul's love for the lost made him feel a sense of duty (Romans 1:14).
  3. Paul pronounced a woe upon himself if he failed in his obligation to preach the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16).

#### **II. THE MAN**

- A. A man of obedience (Acts 26:19)
  1. Paul did not believe in "faith only."
  2. Paul knew that in order to be pleasing to God he must obey God (cf. 1 Samuel 15:22).
- B. A man of courage (Acts 26:21, 22)
  1. Courage was a common characteristic of Paul.

- a. Acts 9:20-29
  - b. Acts 14:19-21
  - c. Acts 24:10-21
  - d. Acts 25:11
- 2. Paul taught Timothy to have courage (2 Timothy 1:8, 13).
- C. A man of conviction
  - 1. Conviction was a common characteristic of Paul.
    - a. Romans 1:16
    - b. Galatians 2:20
    - c. 1 Corinthians 2:2
  - 2. Though Agrippa had the power to inflict harm upon Paul, Paul stood before Agrippa as a man with conviction (cf. Philippians 1:21, 23).
- D. A man of servitude
  - 1. Paul referred to himself as a willing slave to God (Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1; Philemon 1).
  - 2. Paul's body bore physical marks of his servitude (Galatians 6:17).

### **III. THE MESSAGE**

- A. A message of "forgiveness" (Acts 26:18).
  - 1. By preaching the Gospel, Paul preached the God of the second chance.
  - 2. Paul preached the same God spoken of by John (1 John 1:9).
- B. A message of "inheritance" (Acts 26:18).
  - 1. Paul taught this same message of inheritance to the Galatians (Galatians 4:4-7).
  - 2. Peter spoke of the Christian's inheritance (1 Peter 1:4).
- C. A message of repentance (Acts 26:20).
  - 1. John taught repentance (Matthew 3:2,8).
  - 2. Jesus taught repentance (Matthew 4:17).
- D. A message of "truth" and "soberness" (Acts 26:25). Paul did not leave the impression that Christianity is a fun-and-games lifestyle.
- E. A message that makes one want to be a Christian (Acts 26:28).
  - 1. Paul taught the Gospel (Romans 1:15, 16; Galatians 1:8).
  - 2. The Gospel makes people want to become Christians only.

### **Conclusion**

- 1. Agrippa was not persuaded, by the Gospel, to become a Christian. Almost is not enough!
- 2. One becomes a Christian by obeying God's plan of salvation.
  - Hear (Romans 10:17)
  - Believe (Mark 16:16)
  - Repent (Acts 17:30, 31)
  - Confess (Matthew 10:32, 33)
  - Be Baptized (1 Peter 3:21)
  - Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)