

Acts 26

Acts 26.1-18 - The last recorded speech of the apostle Paul

V1 – Paul again stretches out his hand

-He is in chains, in contrast to the royalty listening to him

V2 – **What was Paul happy about?** To be able to preach the gospel again

V2-3 – A great introduction: Agrippa was a Jew and was an expert in Judaism

V4 – **Read Gal. 1.13-14** – Paul was ahead of other Jews in his devotion

V5 – **The strictest sect of the Jews?** Pharisees

-**What did the Lord criticize about the Pharisees?** For keeping the Old Law too strictly

-This verse again proves that being sincere isn't enough

V6 – He refers to the promise of the general resurrection and, more specifically, to Jesus himself

V7 – **What was the promise?** The coming of the Messiah, the savior of the world

-**What was the earliest prediction of Jesus?** *Gen. 3.15*

-**Other predictions?** From the house of David, from the tribe of Judah, born of a virgin, death according to Isaiah 53, etc.

V8 – "You people" = the Jews (Agrippa was a Jew)

V9 – **Why had the Jews rejected Jesus?** He didn't match their image of the Messiah

-They were look for a political king who could cast out the Romans

-**What had Paul done to the First Century Christians?** Many hostile things

V10 – This seems to indicate that he was a member of the Sanhedrin

-Paul was a widower – *1 Cor. 7.7*

V11 – Paul had been a madman in his persecution of Christians

V12-13 – **What story did he retell?** His experience on the road to Damascus

V14-15 – It was "*hard to kick against the goads*" – Explain:

-This was an ancient proverb in Greek and Latin literature

-A goad was a 6 foot long stick that was used to prod an oxen when pulling a plow

-Paul probably realized that Jesus was the Christ at that point

-*John 16.2* – People kill others and think that they are serving God (even today)

V16-18 – Many Old Testament references to the command: *Stand on your feet....*

-A frequent saying given to Old Testament prophets: *Ezekiel 2.1-3*

V17 – The gospel was given to the Gentiles

V 18 – What is the dominion of Satan? The earth

-*John 14.30* – The prince of this world

-Does anyone here have a job where all of your fellow workers are faithful Christians and members of the Lord's church? No, it would be unheard of

-*John 15.19* – *You are not of this world*

Song: "Here We Are But Straying Pilgrims," #247, *Praise for the Lord*

Acts 26.19-23 – His allegiance to the vision of Christ on the road to Damascus

V 19 – Paul, as always, was loyal to his understanding of the will of God for him

V 20 – Where had Paul gone with the gospel?

1. Damascus
2. Jerusalem
3. Throughout Judea
4. To the Gentiles

V 21 – So the Jews had tried to kill him because he took the gospel to the Gentiles

V 22 – Paul preached to everyone – from the great philosophers on Mars' Hill to the little people like the jailer at Philippi

V 23 – The purpose of Christ was to proclaim "*light*" to all people, both Jews and Gentiles

-In short, Christ became the first-fruits of those who sleep (*1 Cor. 15.20-23*)

Acts 26.24-29

V 24 – Festus interrupted Paul – It was too much for him to grasp

-What did Festus blame Paul's "insanity" on? Too much learning

V 25 – *1 Cor. 1.23* – The sober truth that is often ignored by the world

V 26 – The spread of Christianity – it has not been a secret

-*Acts 17.6* – Description of Christianity going to Thessalonica

V 27 – Why would King Agrippa have believed the prophets? Probably because of his Jewish background

V 28 – The second use of "Christian" in the New Testament (first at Antioch – *Acts 11.26*)

-Where is this name used the third (and last) time in the New Testament? *1 Peter 4.16*

V 29 – What was Paul's greatest wish for King Agrippa? That he would become just like Paul (a Christian), except for the chains that Paul wore

-Paul probably thought as he left: *Acts 20.26* – *I am innocent of the blood of all men*

Acts 26.30-32

V 30 – Paul always spoke the truth; there was no deception in his preaching

V 31 – The "royalty" stood up

-What was their conclusion about Paul? He had not done anything worthy of death

V 32 – **The final conclusion by Agrippa?** Paul should have been set free, except that he had appealed his case to Rome

Revised 2012-12-04