

Paul's Trial Before the Sanhedrin

Acts 22:22–23:10

Intro: The conclusion of Paul's address to the Jews is extremely dramatic and filled with suspense. First, Paul is delivered from Roman scourging by appealing to his Roman citizenship (vv. 24-29). Second, he confronts the hypocrisy of Ananias, the high priest (22:30–31:5). And third, he divides the members of the Sanhedrin (Sadducees and Pharisees) by confessing his "hope in the resurrection of the dead" (23:6-10). The unit closes with Jesus' appearing to Paul in order to encourage and reassure him (23:11).

I. Paul Is Examined by Lysias 22:22-29

- A. Paul's *rejection* by the Jews (vv. 22-23)
- B. Paul's *rescue* by Lysias (v. 24a)
- C. Paul's *revelation* of his Roman citizenship (vv. 24b-29)



II. Paul Is Examined by the Sanhedrin 22:30-23:10

- A. Lysias commands the Sanhedrin Jewish Council to assemble (22:30)
- B. Paul confronts the Council members (23:1-5)
- C. Paul confesses his hope in the resurrection of the dead (vv. 6-10)
 - 1Cor. 15:17—"If Christ has not been raised our faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. And those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."
 - 1 Cor 15:51-54—*The mystery concerning the rapture* of living believers explained.
 - 1 Thess 4:13-18—*The sequence of the rapture*—of those who have died in Christ and of those believers living when Christ returns on the clouds!

III. Paul Is Encouraged by the LORD 23:11

- A. His witness in Jerusalem *was ordained by God* (23:11a)
- B. His witness in Rome *is also ordained by God* (23:11b)

Applications:

1. If we have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation, **we are assured of eternal life!**
2. Always be ready to give a defense of the truth of Jesus Christ (23:6; 1 Pet 3:15)
3. Allow God to speak to your heart *by spending time in His Word daily!* He wants to strengthen, encourage, and equip us to serve as His living witnesses for Jesus Christ!