

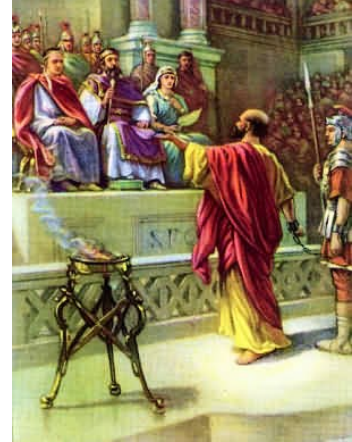
Paul's Defense Before Agrippa

Acts 26:1-32

Intro: Paul's appearance before King Agrippa is the culmination and climax of Paul's several defenses recorded in chapters 21—26. It is really not so much a defense, but simply a further elaboration on the truth of Christianity in relation to Judaism. *Paul's Damascus road conversion and commission by the risen Savior Jesus in vv. 16-18 serves as the center and climax of Paul's entire speech* (cf. 9:1-19; 22:1-16). Paul faithfully bore witness of Christ's death and resurrection to Jews, Gentiles, and kings (9:15 and 26:22).

I. Paul's Appearance Before Agrippa 26:1-23

- A. Paul's acknowledgment of Agrippa (vv. 1-3)
- B. Paul's early days as a devout Pharisee (vv. 4-8)
- C. Paul's persecution of Christianity (vv. 9-11)
- D. Paul's conversion and commission (vv. 12-18)
 - 1. Paul's conversion on the Damascus road (vv. 12-15)
 - 2. Paul's commission to witness for Christ (vv. 16-18)
- E. Paul's obedience in sharing Christ (vv. 19-23)



Paul before Agrippa

II. Paul's Appeal to Agrippa 26:24-29

- A. Festus proposes that Paul is "out of his mind" (v. 24)
- B. Paul appeals to Agrippa to believe in Christ (vv. 25-29)

III. Agrippa's Affirmation of Paul's Innocence 26:30-32

"This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment." (v. 31b)

Applications:

1. Just as Paul was commissioned to be Christ's witness, we too are called to witness. The key role or task of every believer is **Evangelism**: *to serve as a witness for Jesus Christ*.
2. The primary message of every Christian should be *repent and turn to serve the living God*. The proof of *genuine repentance* is a life characterized by good works (v. 20; cf. James 2:14-26). **Good works are never the basis of salvation**. They are, however, the inevitable result of a genuine experience of turning to God by faith in Jesus Christ (**Eph 2:8-10**).
3. May the Lord strengthen our resolve to go forth from church today with a renewed power, zeal, and determination to tell people about our resurrected Savior Jesus Christ!