

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Did Paul's testimony help in his defense?
2. How did Paul use his knowledge against his captors?
3. Was Paul "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove" in his interaction with his captors? How can we apply this response to those who would persecute us?

SUMMARY:

What is truth? Jesus says, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*" (John 14:6) He is the truth of God that makes man free. (John 8:32) Free from the bondage of sin and eternal death. This is the truth that should shine forth in the life of every born-again believer. Even though bound by man, Paul was always ready to give testimony of the truth that made him free.

NOTES:

[SoF:15] We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

February 2, 2020

First Quarter

DEFENDING THE TRUTH

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 22:1-30; 23:1-10*

LESSON SETTING: Paul makes a defense on the steps of the castle.

TIME: Approximately 58 A.D.

I. PAUL DEFENDS HIS EXPERIENCE. Acts 22:1-21

- A. Tells of His Former Life. (vs. 1-5) Acts 9:1-2; Ephesians 2:1-3
- B. His Conversion. (vs. 6-10) Ephesians 2:4-7

II. PAUL DEFENDS HIS RIGHTS. Acts 22:22-30

- A. As Uncondemned. (vs. 25)
- B. As a Roman Citizen. (vs. 25-26) Romans 13:1-5

III. PAUL DEFENDS HIS FAITH. Acts 23:1-10

- A. His Testimony. **[SoF:15]** Galatians 1:15-24; Philippians 3:7-11; 1 Timothy 1:13-14
- B. The Truth Separates. Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 12:11, 51-53

GOLDEN TEXT: *WATCH YE, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH, QUIT YOU LIKE MEN, BE STRONG.*
1 Corinthians 16:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 23:11-35

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Samuel 23:1-29; Jeremiah 39:1-18

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: PAUL ESCAPES A PLOT

INTRODUCTION:

Paul must have realized that his life was in danger when he was taken prisoner from the temple in Jerusalem. But he still wished to defend the truth, to tell of his conversion, of his faith. This caused great disturbance among the people and they wished to do away with Paul. In order to save him he was put into a fort or castle.

That night the Lord came and stood by him saying, *“Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou has testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also in Rome.”* What a thrilling experience for Paul. Surely Paul was willing to be a prisoner if the Lord, Himself, stood with him and spoke to him. In like manner, we can truly have the assurance that no matter what the circumstance is, it can be no greater than what the Lord can handle. We must know that He is standing by us and we must be calm and quiet, so that we can hear Him speak to us.

We can hear His voice saying: *“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”* We should not fear what man can do to us; we have an almighty God who cares for His own.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The testimony of a godly life is our best defense.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THE LORD IS MY ROCK, AND MY FORTRESS,
AND MY DELIVERER;* 2 Samuel 22:2

Paul had encountered many trials and persecutions in bringing the Gospel to both Jew and Gentile. Now, even though he was a prisoner, there were those who plotted to kill him. Paul realized that God was making it possible to escape, so he used the knowledge which his nephew brought to escape the ambush.

There are many types of trials and temptations “common to man.” If we would be godly, some we must endure, and some we must resist, and from some we must flee. If we are in God’s service, the Holy Spirit will help us in each one, either to overcome or “make a way of escape.” *“And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (2 Timothy 4:18)

If our way through darkness take us,
Thou wilt be for us the Light,
And in death wilt not forsake us:
We shall see Thy glory bright. Z.H. 18:8

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 3–9

- M. David’s Life Sought. 1 Samuel 23:1-8
- T. David Escapes. 1 Samuel 23:9-15
- W. Saul’s Pursuit Renewed. 1 Samuel 23:16-23
- T. David’s Deliverance. 1 Samuel 23:24-29
- F. *Paul’s Life Threatened. Acts 23:11-15
- S. *Paul Discovers the Plot. Acts 23:16-22
- S. *Paul’s Deliverance. Acts 23:23-35

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