Witnesses to Christ


No Offense Toward God and Men
Lesson 19

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 8, 2016
A Time of Great Change

▶ Out of the shadows
  • The Seed of Eve, the Patriarchs and David – Messiah
  • Justification by grace through faith (Gen 6:8; 15:6; Heb 11)
  • Resurrection and the Redeemer (Job 19:25-26)
  • Final Judgment (Jude 14-15)
  • The Law and the Prophets (Gal 3:24; 1 Peter 1:10-11)

▶ Into the light of day
  • The Incarnation of Jesus Christ – “It is finished”
  • Jesus the Nazarene is now the risen Savior
  • Pentecost – a new role for the Holy Spirit

▶ 20 years later
  • The Law of Moses (21:20)
  • The nation Israel (21:28)
Geographic Transition

- Jerusalem
- Regional (Judea and Samaria) – by persecution
- International – by command
- A final return to Jerusalem – a final rejection of truth
- Fall of Jerusalem in AD 70
- Issues defined at end of Acts
Paul’s 4th Missionary Journey

- Paul’s plan for a 4th Missionary Journey – to Rome and then Spain (Acts 19:21; Romans 15:24)
- Return to Jerusalem with many warnings
- Missionary journey of a different kind . . .
  - Defense before the Jews outside the Temple (22:1-21)
  - Defense before the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)
  - Defense before Felix (24:1-21)
  - Defense before Festus (25:7-11)
  - Defense before Agrippa (26:1-29)
  - Message to the Jews in Rome (28:25-28)
No Offense Toward God and Men
Acts 22:30-24:27

- Paul before the Sanhedrin (22:30-23:10)
- A word from the Lord (23:11)
- A conspiracy to kill Paul (23:12-35)
- Paul before Felix (24:1-23)
- Paul forgotten in custody (24:24-27)
The Need for a Charge against Paul (22:30)

- Paul peacefully doing rite of purification in Temple (21:26)
- Jews from Asia saw him and falsely accused him (21:27-28)
- Lysias intervened and let Paul speak to the Jews (21:33-34)
- Lysias decided to examine Paul by scourging (22:24)
- Could not continue because Paul was a Roman (22:24-29)
- Convened the Sanhedrin the next day (22:30)
Examination by the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)

Castle of Antonia – NW of the Temple
Examination by the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)

- Paul affirms his innocence
- Innocent of the charges of the Jews from Asia (24:18-20)
- Ananias (high priest) – spiritual leader without Scripture
- Paul’s rebuke – true, but not pleasing to God
- Paul identifies the charge: the hope of resurrection
The Offense of the Resurrection

- The initial charge against the disciples (4:2)
- Romans did not see it to be criminal (25:19)
- Pharisees did not object to the idea of resurrection
- Christ raised to be King and Judge (17:31; 24:15, 25)
- Hatred without a cause (John 15:21-25; Ps 35:19; 69:4)
- Exposes hostility to God – hate the Light (John 3:19-20)
- Results: confusion and risk to Paul’s life
A Word from the Lord (23:11)

- The determining will of God
- The pathway not revealed
A Conspiracy to Kill Paul (23:12-35)

- The plot by 40+ un-identified Jews
- Enlisted the “whitewashed wall” to assist in murder
- “Accidental” discovery
- Lysias sees a way out – transfer Paul to Caesarea
- No crime committed – questions about their Law
- A royal escort for Paul – 400 soldiers/75 horsemen
- Paul kept in the governor’s residence
Paul before Felix (24:1-23)

- Tertullus
  - False flattery of Felix
  - Charges (24:5-6)
    - A pestilence - deadly infection
    - Stirs up dissension among Jews through the world
    - Tried to desecrate the Temple – not true
  - Jews joined in on the attack
Caused no trouble in 12 days in Jerusalem
Serve the God of our fathers according to the Way
Believe all written in the Law and the Prophets
Have hope in God to raise the righteous and the wicked
Blameless before God and men
No charge from the Sanhedrin (Acts 23)
Only issue was belief in the resurrection of the dead
Felix decided not to decide! Waiting for Lysias!!
Paul Witnesses to Felix

- Modified incarceration – no charge against him
- Felix’s curiosity
- Paul’s witness:
  - Faith in Christ Jesus
  - Righteousness, self-control, judgment to come
- Felix – temporal gain suppressed truth
- Paul kept imprisoned as favor to Jews – 2+ years
Paul Witnesses the Gospel

- The centrality of the resurrection
  - Key doctrine of the faith – 1 Peter 1:3-5
  - Warning: everlasting contempt – Daniel 12:2

- The unwavering witness of Paul
  - Pursue holiness – no offense toward God and men
  - Speaking the truth despite consequences
Resurrection

- Declares deity of Jesus Christ
  - Romans 1:4
- Establishes the truth of God
  - 1 Corinthians 15:14-15
- Finalizes deliverance from sin
  - 1 Corinthians 15:17
- Essential for eternal life
  - 1 Corinthians 15:22-23
- Necessary for final victory
  - 1 Corinthians 15:24-28
- Motive for Christian diligence
  - 1 Corinthians 15:56