

STANDING BEFORE THE KING!

Acts 26

Intro: A. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for every person n planet earth.

1. It is needed equally by the rich, the poor; the high and lifted up, the cast down.

2. The Gospel teaches us that all are sinners and need a Savior.. (Rom. 3:23). Because the wages of sin is damnation in a sinner's hell. (Rom. 6:23).

B. We have here in our lesson text, Paul the prisoner, standing before King Agrippa.

1. Felix had left Paul in prison, simply to please His accusers, the Jews.

2. Festus could not find anything to charge Paul with, nor did Pilate.

3. Now Agrippa, his wife, Bernice, and Festus listen as Paul tells his story to them.

C. Let's listen in as Paul's tells his story to the King.

I. 1ST, HE SAID THAT JESUS CHANGED THE DESTINATION OF HIS SOUL! (VSS. 3-15).

A. As a young man Paul was concerned about his soul.

1. He was very strict in the religion of his youth.

2. He lived as a Pharisee, trying to keep the Law.

3. He excelled in his religion far above most; He was a Pharisee among Pharisees.

B. Paul persecuted Christians in order to "gain favor with God".

1. He really believed that God would be pleased with his opposition to Jesus.

2. He had all believers thrown into prison and was glad when they were put to death.

3. One such example was when he stood by watching Deacon Stephen die after being beaten and stoned by Paul's soldiers.

C. But then came decision day for Paul.on the road to Damascus to persecute more Christians.

1. At high noon. A light brighter than the sun, illuminated the road.

2. Paul heard a voice and knew immediately that it was the voice of the Lord.

3. He said I was not disobedient unto the Heavenly command, "Lord, what will you have me to do?"

II. 2ND, JESUS CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF HIS LIFE! (VSS. 16-25)

A. Paul was commissioned for a life of service to Christ.

1. "to make thee a minister and a witness." (vs. 16).

2. Paul ministered to open the eyes of those in spiritual darkness.

3. He ministered to turn people from the power of Satan to the power of God.

4. He ministered to bring people from the pits of hell to the streets of gold in the heavenly city.

B. Paul's obedience had brought him to this place and into the hands of His accusers.

C. When he began to fulfill his call from God, trouble came!

1. Enemies of the Gospel tried to kill him. As Jesus had said at the entry to the Garden of Gethsemane to Judas, "Friend, I do thee no harm".
2. But Paul continued to preach about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. And now he is taking advantage to present the Gospel message to the king.

III. 3RD, JESUS CHANGED THE DESIRES OF PAUL'S HEART! (VSS. 26-29)

A. His former desires was to do away with Christians heir message.

B. Now preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ was his only passion.

1. Place Paul anywhere and he will tell others of God's love.
2. He will tell all about his conversion.

C. Paul desired for Agrippa, his wife and Festus to know Jesus .

D. What is the driving desire of your heart? Is it at all to tell anyone about Jesus and His salvation?

CONCLUSION: What about the destination of your soul? King Agrippa was almost persuaded to become a Christian. What about you? "Almost is to fail. Almost but lost!

UMBC

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