

PAUL'S DEFENSE: HIS PERSONAL TESTIMONY

(Acts 22:1-21)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 1-2)
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 3-7)
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (chapters 8-12)
- IV. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (chapters 13-28)

A. Paul's Defense before the Jewish Crowd in Jerusalem (22:1-21)

1. Because the apostle wanted to _____ himself against the three accusations that he was disloyal to his people, the Mosaic Law, and the temple (cf. 21:28), he opened with his _____, "*brethren and fathers*". (v. 1, cf. 7:2)

2. It was assumed that Paul was a Hellenistic Jew living outside of Palestine, in which case he would _____ be able to speak Aramaic; his ability to speak Aramaic gave his _____ credentials even more _____. (v. 2)

3. Paul's brief heritage and history follows a threefold pattern...
 - a. Birth: Born a Hellenistic _____ living in Tarsus (v. 3a)

 - b. Upbringing: Educated in _____, the finest university of the day, and in addition to that, he was a Pharisee who was taught in _____ by Gamaliel, the most respected _____ of the day. (v. 3b)

 - c. When it came to religious zeal, Paul described how he went much _____ than _____ in his audience, he was actually a _____ of "*the Way*," putting Christians in prison or to death. (v. 4)

4. The apostle described how he was even on his way to Damascus (with letters from the high priest) to bring _____ back to Jerusalem for _____...when he was _____ by a brilliant light. (vv. 5-6)

5. Dr. Luke narrates Paul's conversion in three places (Acts 9:3-5; 22:6-10; 26:12-18), each one includes information excluded from the other.
 - a. Even though it was noon, when the sun was the brightest, the Light shining on them was yet still _____ than the sun. (v. 6)
 - b. Only Saul was _____ by the light; he immediately acknowledged the Person who was addressing him as the "_____." (v. 8)
 - c. Jesus connected the dots for Saul, when he persecuted the _____ (the Body) he was also persecuting _____ (the Head). (vv. 7-8)
 - d. The men who journeyed with Saul _____ the light, and according to 9:7 _____ the voice but did _____ understand what was spoken. (v. 9)

6. Saul was given divine instructions; being blind he was led by the hand to a saved Jewish man by the name of Ananias who laid _____ on him and Saul _____ his _____. (vv. 10-14)

7. In 9:15 the Lord told Ananias, "*Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before _____, kings, and the children of _____.*" In 22:15 Ananias told Saul, "*For you will be His witness to _____*".

8. Saul was saved on the Damascus' Road, but while at Ananias' house he was _____ with the Spirit (9:17); he was then water baptized as an _____ testimony of what had already transpired _____, namely his sins had been forgiven. (v. 16)

9. In his first visit to Jerusalem (after his conversion), the hostile persecution was ramping up when the Lord told him to leave the city, "*for they will _____ your testimony concerning Me.*" (v. 18) "*Depart, for I will send you far from here to the _____.*" (v. 21)

* What can you personally apply from Paul's example?