

Acts 21:27-22:22
Our Apologetic

Introduction:

The book, “Reason to Believe” by RC Sproul is a response to common objections to Christianity. It gives some basic ways to defend the Christian faith. Example the chapter on “all religions are good, It doesn’t matter what you believe,” this is a typical response when we witness the gospel. The point of the chapter is that all religions are not the same.

- How can Buddhism be true when it denies the existence of a personal God and the same time Christianity affirms the existence of a personal God?
- How can Orthodox Judaism be right when it denies life after death and Christianity be equally right when it affirms life after death?
- How can Islam have a valid ethic that endorses the killing of infidels while at the same time the Christian ethic of loving your enemies be equally valid?
- We may summarize all religions as doing something to achieve redemption. Whereas Christianity as something done by Christ to achieve our salvation. His death making atonement for our sins and His death imputing His righteousness to our account.

I. Paul Facing Hostile Jews – 21:27-40

A. Paul’s error in appeasing the Jews

1. Involving himself in a Nazarite vow for the sake of purification – I John 1:9
2. Involving himself in a ceremonial sacrifice – Heb. 9:11,12; Gal. 5:1,2

B. The Jews accused Paul of bringing Trophimus into the temple.

C. Paul Spoke Greek Language – v.37 cf. Acts 23:25-30

II. Paul’s Formal Defense – 22:1-22

A. Apologetics – (Gk. Apologia)

1. Word Usage: Phil. 1:7,16; II Tim. 4:16; I Pet. 3:15

B. Paul’s Conversion Experience:

1. Paul’s past life in Judaism – v.1-5 (Rom. 9:4-5; Phil. 3:4-6; Rom. 10:3-4)
2. Paul’s revelation of Jesus Christ – v. 6-16 (Turn To: Gal. 1:10-24)
3. Paul’s Commission to the Gentiles – v.17-21

C. Jews disturbed about the reference to Gentiles:

1. The Jews were objecting that Gentiles could be saved without the adhering to the Law of Moses.
2. Paul sharply disagreed that both Jews and Gentiles can only be saved God’s way through Jesus alone. (16th century Reformation)

D. What do we say when the world says, “that’s your opinion?”

Conclusion:

Our witness as Christians:

1. *It should be personal, yet Christ centered – 22:10*
2. *It should be sensitive and tactful.*
3. *It should be one of perseverance. (22:18)*

*Pastor Nick Iamaio Reformed Presbyterian Church
207 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069
Web Site fultonrpc.org
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