

Acts 22:22-23:11
Our Witness before Our Accusers

Introduction:

Those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ will suffer some of the same treatment as he did. Often men will accuse us of wrong doing when the charges are entirely false. Keep in mind the devious plots of the wicked against the genuine Christian are not without Satan's forces behind them. Eph.6:10-13 Paul calls these times, "schemes of the devil," "spiritual forces of wickedness." Our encouragement is to "take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day," The Psalmist prays correctly when he says, "let my accusers be clothed with dishonor, and let them cover themselves with their own shame as with a robe."

- I. **Paul's Custody by the Romans – 22:22-30**
 - A. **Imprisoned yet the Word of God is not – II Tim. 2:9**
 1. Unlawful to scourge a Roman citizen – v.25
 2. Paul born a Roman citizen – v. 28
 - B. **Principles of secular governments:**
 1. The State is responsible for defense of its citizens – I Pet. 2:13-19
 2. The responsibility of the church – Acts 2:45

- II. **Paul's Contention with the Sanhedrin – 23:1-11**
 - A. **Paul's first statement – v.1**
 - B. **The Conscience:**
 1. Was Paul's conscience really clear? Phil. 3:6; Tim. 1:13
 2. The conscience is not an infallible guide.
 3. God has created the faculty of the conscience within all men –Rom. 2:14,15; II Cor. 4:2
 4. God reveals Himself in essentially three ways: **Creation** – Rom. 1:19-21; **Conscience** - Rom. 2:14,15; **Scripture** – Rom. 1:16
 5. The Conscience may be seared – Turn To: I Tim. 4:1-3; Heb. 9:14
 - C. **Paul's Rebuttal – v.25**
 1. Paul says, God is going to strike you, a prophetic statement – John 18:19-23
 2. Paul calls Ananias a hypocrite – v.3; Ezekiel 13:10-16
 3. Paul's protest was proper – v.3 b.; Lev. 19:15; Rev. 12:10; Rom. 13:1-7; II Kings 3:1-3 cf. II Kings 18:1-4
 - D. **The Resurrection Doctrine – v.6-10**

Conclusion:

1. *Paul's appeal to the Pharisaical party who held to the Resurrection of the dead.*
2. *There is here a great exhortation to the church. The Resurrection of Christ must be our focus. There is no gospel without it.*
3. *When we are placed before world officials be they secular or religious, be not worried what to say in your defense – Matt. 10:19*
4. *We are called to be Witnesses. "Take Courage" – John 16:33; Luke 12:32*

10-17-2010