

Acts 25:13-26:32
The Demands of the Gospel

Introduction:

Here we see the Apostle Paul giving his testimony concerning his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ before King Agrippa. King Agrippa typifies the “almost Christian.” He held back at the very last minute. We may say he listened with sincerity yet even in his sincerity he remained detached. Though he was almost persuaded, he shrugged Paul off and walked away like the rich young ruler. We might say he was the rich old ruler. (Mark 10:17-31)

King Agrippa had a mere knowledge of Biblical facts which does not make anyone a real Christian. He must still repent and believe the gospel in his heart. (Rom. 10:9-10)

There is a serious warning from this text and that is, we must not flirt with the gospel. If one remains committed to be uncommitted he will surely perish.

- I. **The Circumstances of Paul’s Testimony – 25:13-27**
 - A. **King Agrippa’s background – (Matt. 2:16; 12:23)**
 1. Festus void of charges –
 2. Agrippa volunteers to hear Paul’s case – v.22
 - B. **Paul standing before Agrippa**
 1. Pomp and pageantry –v.23 (“fantasy”)
 2. The passing fantasies of Rome
- II. **The Commencement of Paul’s Testimony – 26:1-18**
 - A. **Paul’s commission by Jesus Christ – Acts 9:15; Eph. 6:20; Phil. 1:21**
 - B. **Paul’s life in Judaism**
 1. A Strict Pharisee – (Josephus)
 2. A believer in the Resurrection – Turn To: I Cor. 15:12-26 (I Pet. 1:3; Rev. 20:5,6)
 - C. **Paul’s conversion experience**
 1. Not an epileptic fit (Spurgeon)
 - B. **What happens to believers:**
 1. Blind eyes see the truth of the gospel – II Cor. 4:3-6
 2. Forgiveness of sins – Rom. 4:7-8 (Col. 1:14; Heb. 8:12; 9:28; 10:12; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18; I John 2:1-12; 4:10)
 3. Eternal Inheritance – I Pet. 1:4; Acts 13”39
- III. **The Culmination of Paul’s Testimony – 26:19-23**
 - A. **The necessity of obedience – v.19**
 - B. **The necessity of repentance – v.20 (The wayward sheep)**
 - C. **The Responses of Festus and Agrippa – 24-28**
 1. Paul is insane – I Cor. 1:18
 2. Paul almost persuaded me to be a Christian – v.28
 3. Festus’ pride of intellect
 4. Agrippa’ pride of position

Conclusion:

1. **If you are not a Christian do not let the pride of your intellect or the pride of your position keep you from bowing to Jesus Christ – Matt. 16:26**
2. **The demands of the gospel means there is no neutral ground. You cannot be an almost Christian and expect the Lord to grant you forgiveness. You cannot serve two masters – Mark 1:14,15 ; 6:24**

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