

ACTS 23:11 "ON TO ROME"

I. PAUL'S DAY OF DEFEAT.

A. He had a burning desire to preach Christ in Jerusalem.

1. Soon after his conversion he came to Jerusalem, and the Lord told him to get out, for they would not receive his testimony.

a. Paul argued with the Lord.

1. If you ever find yourself arguing with the Lord, you're wrong.

2. Have you ever thought the Lord was making a mistake?

B. His great moment had finally come.

1. He stood on the steps of the Antonio fortress.

2. The crowd listened intently as he recounted his conversion.

3. They, however, did not let him finish his message, but began to riot.

C. He had finally appeared before the Sanhedrin.

1. Which also ended with a near riot.

2. He started off bad, and things just got worse.

a. He began saying, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

1. At this point, the High Priest ordered the fellow standing by Paul to hit him in the mouth.

2. Paul said to him, "God will hit you, you whitewashed wall."

b. Paul then cried, "I am a Pharisee, and of the hope of the resurrection I am called in question."

1. Some accuse Paul of cleverly dividing his foes Perhaps so.

2. I feel he wanted to preach the resurrection of Jesus to them.

c. He had to be taken into protective custody once again.

D. Paul's lifelong desire and dream ended in total disaster.

II. PAUL'S NIGHT OF DISCOURAGEMENT.

- A. Trip to Jerusalem seemed total waste.
 - 1. His reception by church less than enthusiastic.
 - a. No mention of any thanks for the gift he brought.
 - b. When Peter was in prison, the church prayed (no prayer meetings with Paul..
 - c. The church through compromise had learned to live comfortably with the world, Peaceful coexistence.
 - 1. They begged Paul not to disturb this.
 - 2. They called on him to compromise also.
 - 3. His reception by the Jews was. even worse.

B. He no doubt was re-living his blunders.

- 1. Why did I mention Gentiles to the crowd?
- 2. Why did I lose my cool and call the High Priest a. white-washed wall?
- 3. Many people sink in the cess pool of the question why.
- 4. Many spend weary nights trying to re-live the day. If I had only said, that if and why.

2. We need to remember that we are not as commissioned salesmen. We get paid for presenting the merchandise, not for how many units we sell.

3. One man may witness to 100 people and they all receive Jesus as Savior.

4. Another may witness to 100 people and none receive Christ. When they stand before the Lord to receive their reward for their service, they will both receive the same reward.

5. I am not responsible to bring men to Jesus Christ, just to bring Jesus Christ to men

III. PAUL'S NIGHT OF VICTORY.

2 Tim. 4:16 through 2 Tim. 4:18 ¹⁶*At my first defense no one stood with me,*

but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

¹⁷But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. ¹⁸And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

A. Suddenly in that prison, Jesus was standing by him.

1. First words, "Be of good cheer."

a. Same Greek phrase translated, "of good courage."

b. Signified he was discouraged or despondent.

c. Jesus often spoke words of encouragement saying "Be of good cheer."

a. To the man sick of the palsy brought to

Jesus by his friends who had to remove the roof to let him down in front of Jesus He said, "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven."

b. To the frightened disciples when He came walking to them on the water and they thought they were seeing a ghost, "Be of good cheer, it is I."

c. Jesus said to His disciples, "In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world."

2. How quickly the awareness of the presence of Jesus can dispel our fears, sorrows.

B. Jesus had no words of condemnation.

1. He didn't say, "Paul, why did you blow it?"

a. Paul was being harder on himself than the Lord.

b. This is often the case. We are condemning ourselves. "Who is he that condemneth?"

c. We often imagine the Lord condemning us.

C. He commended him, "As you have testified of me in Jerusalem."

1. Matters not that they rejected.

2. Matters not that they rioted.

D. He sets before him a new commission, "So must you also bear witness in Rome".

1. Desire of heart to be fulfilled,

Acts 19:21 (NKJV) When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

2. Matters not that 40 men have vowed to kill you. "THE

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Remember what Paul said -*Acts 20:22-24 (NKJV) 22 "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*

The world doesn't want to hear, wants to silence us- some celebrity makes obscene comments about Trump or threatens his wife and children and it goes viral

Gal 6:9-10 (NKJV) 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.