

Series "The Acts Of God"
"The Sobering Truth"
Acts 26:1-32
Study-46

Acts 26:22-29

- 1. Acts 22** – Paul’s Defense Before The Jews
- 2. Acts 23** – Paul’s Defense Before The Jewish Counsel
- 3. Acts 24** – Paul’s Defense Before Governor Felix: Paul is left in custody in prison in Caesarea, Acts 23-26; he stays for 2 years.
- 4. Acts 25** – Paul’s Defense Before Festus: (New Governor)
- 5. Acts 26** – Paul’s Defense Before Festus & King Agrippa

The 3rd time Paul’s Conversion is given – Acts 9:1-19; Acts 22:5-16, Acts 26:12-18

- 1. Verses 1-11 – Life Before Conversion**
- 2. Verses 12-18 – Experience of Conversion**
- 3. Verses 19-23 – Witness After Conversion**
- 4. Verses 24-32 – Response To Paul’s Conversion**

1. Verses 1-11 – Life Before Conversion:

Acts 26:1

Acts 25:23-27

“defense”: Greek word Apologia; “to give an account of oneself, or to defend oneself”

Acts 26:2-3

Verse 4 – Jewish Training, Acts 26:4

Acts 22:3 – Trained under Gamaliel

Verse 5 – Strict Religious Life, Acts 26:5

Verses 6-8 – Believed In The Promises For Israel: Acts 26:6-8

We Must Yield To Facts! So often we confuse “Unbelief with Doubt”; Unbelief – is willful disregard for the facts and truth. Doubt – is not understanding, not being able to put together the truth.

Verses 9-11 – Paul’s Persecution of The Church: Acts 26:9-11

2. Verses 12-18 – Experience of Conversion:

Acts 26:12-13

Conversion – Paul Saw the Light: “I saw on the way a light from heaven,”

Acts 26:14

Conversion – He Heard a Voice: “I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’”

Acts 26:15

Romans 1:4

Acts 26:16

The Resurrected Lord: “I have appeared to you,”

Acts 26:17-18

“to open their eyes” – (Conversion)

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

1 John 2:11

“so that they may turn from darkness to light” – (Illumination)

1 John 5:19

“in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins” – (Liberation)

“and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” – (Adoption)

3. Verses 19-23 – Witness After Conversion:

Acts 26:19

Conversion – Paul Obeyed God’s Call: “I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,”

Acts 26:20

Paul The Persecutor Becomes Paul The Preacher: “but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first,”

Paul Preacher To The Jews Now Preacher To The Gentiles: “and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles,”

“repent” – “change of thinking, a change of mind, agreeing with God”;
Make a U-turn!

Acts 20:21

Repentance – A change of mind.

Regeneration – A change of heart.

Redemption – A change of state.

Acts 26:21-23

Isaiah 53:3-5

Psalms 16:10

4. Verses 24-32 – Response To Paul’s Conversion:

Acts 26:24

Governor Festus’ Response To The Gospel – Interrupts Paul’s Defense With His Verdict “You Are Crazy”; “Festus said in a loud voice,” or “Shouting at the top of his voice”

“mad.” – Literally, “rave like a maniac, beside yourself, mad”; you are fanatical.

Paul Does Not Respond As A Mad Man: Acts 26:25

1 Cor. 1:20-27

King Agrippa's Response To The Gospel – Not Persuaded: Acts 26:28

1. Was King Agrippa sincere (Almost Converted)? "Paul in a short time I am going to be persuaded to become a Christian!"
2. Most believe King Agrippa is giving a (Sarcastic Question), "Do you think that in a short time you can persuade me to become a Christian?"

Acts 26:29-32

Who Was Truly Bound? Matthew 16:26

Application:

The Sobering Truth Brings A Moral Obligation:

1. The Sobering Truth: The Proof of Paul's Changed Life: Acts 26:9-20
2. The Sobering Truth: The Gospel Message Preached – Death, Burial, and Resurrection: Acts 26:23
3. The Sobering Truth: The Historical Evidence Is Not Found In A Corner: Acts 26:26
4. The World Looks At Those That Follow Jesus As Out Of Their Minds, But God Sees Them As In A Right State Of Mind.