

Paul's Testimony

"From Persecutor to Apostle"



Paul's Defense & Background

1 "Brothers and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you."

2 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet; and he said,

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Paul's Defense & Background

3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the Law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Paul's Defense & Background

5 as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brothers, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



The Damascus Encounter

6 “But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus at about noon, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, 7 and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**’

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



The Damascus Encounter

8 And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, '**I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.**' 9 And those who were with me saw the light, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



The Damascus Encounter

10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?'
And the Lord said to me, '**Get up and go
on into Damascus, and there you will be
told about everything that has been
appointed for you to do.**' 11 But since I
could not see because of the brightness
of that light, I came into Damascus
being led by the hand by those who
were with me.

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Restoration Through Ananias

12 "Now a certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing nearby he said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I looked up at him.

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Restoration Through Ananias

14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear a message from His mouth. 15 For you will be a witness for Him to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.'

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Commission & Divine Calling

17 "It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance, 18 and I saw Him saying to me, 'Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.'

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Commission & Divine Calling

19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You.

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Commission & Divine Calling

20 And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing nearby and approving, and watching over the cloaks of those who were killing him.' 21 And He said to me, '**Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.**'"

Acts 22:1-21 (NASB)



Christ's Commission to the Church

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NASB)



Quoting the Prophet Isaiah

47 For so the Lord has commanded us,

'I HAVE APPOINTED YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.'"

Acts 13:47 (NASB)



Ambassadors for Christ?

18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18,20(NASB)



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. "IS THERE A PART OF MY LIFE WHERE MY ZEAL NEEDS REALIGNMENT WITH GOD'S REVEALED, BIBLICAL TRUTH?"



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

2. "HOW CAN I IMITATE PAUL TO ALLOW GOD TO TRANSFORM MY PAST INTO A POWERFUL TESTIMONY FOR OTHERS?"



Conclusion & Invitation

"PICTURE A WEARY TRAVELER LOST IN AN EXPANSIVE DARKNESS. SUDDENLY, A BRILLIANT BEAM OF LIGHT EMERGES, GUIDING EVERY UNCERTAIN STEP TOWARD HOME. THIS IS THE CALL OF CHRIST, TRANSFORMING OUR MISDIRECTED PATHS INTO JOURNEYS OF DIVINE PURPOSE. WILL YOU STEP INTO THAT LIGHT?"

