

*THE ACTS*  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**CHAPTER 25:13-26-23**

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**TITLE:**

**PAUL'S GREAT DEFENSE - PART 1**  
***BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD***

**THEME:**

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

*George Whitefield, the great evangelist of the eighteenth century, had a group of antagonists who would follow him around and mock him and his messages - one of them, a man by the name of Thorpe began to mimic one of George Whitefield's sermons with great accuracy, including the voice and mannerisms. While doing his reenactment of Whitefield's message, he all of a sudden stopped silent, dropped to his knees and asked Jesus Christ into his heart!*

**Thorpe went on to be the bishop of Bristol, England**

- Because he had **Listened** to the message
  - He **Interacted** with the Word

*Saul of Tarsus, now called Paul, a changed man who once attacked the gospel of Jesus Christ, now the great proponent of it - it's message of forgiveness and salvation was himself under attack!*

**GOD KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT HIS BATTLES**  
**- HE DOES IT WITH CHRISTIANS**

**& HAVING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT MEANS EVERYTHING**

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for

## Update the Scene:

Paul has appeared in court before the Jerusalem counsel, then before Felix, the Governor of Judea, again before Festus and now for the fourth time before Herod Agrippa II - Great grandson of Herod Agrippa (birth of Jesus).

- In verses 13 to 27 the narrative gives us the Scene

## The point to the message is found in chapter 26

where Paul finally is allowed to give an account of the events that have led to this very meeting and encounter

### 1.) *God Sets the Stage for His Own*

*vv. 13-21*

*Herod Agrippa II son of Herod Agrippa I, Grandson of Herod the Great.*

*This Herod was appointed office at the age of 17 yrs. old by Rome to preside over the region because the Herodian family was part Jewish Idumeans.*

*Bernice, one of the most beautiful women mentioned in Roman history. She was a tramp in that she was prone to sleep with whomever had the power at the time. This time the seat of power fell to her brother, so with her brother she slept in a incestuous relationship with one another*

### Verse 14

Festus being new on the job and not skilled in Jewish customs, wisely consults Agrippa about Paul. Agrippa had the most knowledge of Jewish custom and religion.

### Verse 14b-18

### Paul had his Voice

### Verse 19

Paul's Case was well known

He's the Guy that says what we've always believed really happened...

## Imagine That

a recent USA today poll taken said that 68% of Americans believe that the world is coming to an end and 43% of them believed it would happen within the next twenty years.

Imagine that....Believing What the Bible says

### 2.) *A Great Gathering for One Little Man*

vv. 22-27

#### Verse 22

Being Part Jew, knowing the scriptures  
THIS HAD TO RAISE AGGRIPPAS EYEBROW

#### Verse 23

all of this hype over one little, bald headed, hooked nose converted Jew who held to the message that you hold in your heart - if you are a Christian this morning!

The Importance of one life,  
one soul in the vastness of the universe!

This week I thought I was to go to Moscow, Russia to the Pastor's conference there. This week I thought I was to secure a flat in Saint Petersburg, Russia. This week I thought I was to spend time with the church there in Russia. But God had a certain man in mind named Victor Zinkova

## Chapter 26

### 3.) *Paul Makes His Great Defense*

vv. 1-27

Standing for what cannot be denied,  
- The Power is in what Cannot be Denied!!!

The Message of Jesus Christ  
- Around the World !!!

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What Are Your Concerns If You Are Summoned To Court?

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- Will you be effective?
- Will you be believed?
- Will you win your case?

The Courtroom is the hearts & minds of Men  
The Judge is God Almighty Himself  
The Case - "Sin vs. the People"

But what if your Argument,  
your reason, your purpose, your message

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is beyond man's ability to judge or understand  
because it is supernatural & spiritual - what then?

1 Corinthians 2:12-15

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

### 2 Corinthians 4:3-5

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord !!!

### Verse 1-3

It was true, Agrippa was an expert in the Jewish culture and their religion - for that reason he was the reigning authority of that region

### Verse 4-5

Paul had a religious Background of the Utmost Achievement

### *Philippians 3:4-6*

*though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

If you think you can get to heaven by being good enough or by paying your own way

- #1 You've got to outdo Paul the Apostle
- #2 You've got to outdo Jesus Christ

## Matthew 7:21

### Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

\* Rags HEB 899 beged (behg'-ed)  
a covering, a cloth for cleansing, a lap rag,

\* Filthy HEB 5708 `ed (ayd)  
the soiling of a menstrual cycle

That's why the Message of the Gospel is so sweet, so  
wonderful

IT LIBERATES FROM EVERY ATTEMPT TO WASH YOURSELF

#### **OUTSIDE OF JESUS CHRIST**

1. Your Offerings stink
2. Your Tithing to God stinks
3. Your Good works stink
4. Your Attendance at church stinks
5. Your Life stinks

#### **Philippians 3:7-9**

But whatever was to my profit - I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish (grk: bandini - do do), that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith

#### **BUT IN CHRIST**

1. Now you are washed
2. Now you are clean
3. Now you are whole
4. Now you are pure
5. Now you are forgiven !!!

Hebrews 10:17

then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (NKJ)

Philippians 3:20

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Phil 3:21 who will change our vile bodies that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to gather all things to Himself.

Ephesians 1:6

by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a Historical Fact that cannot be denied...

And that Can be proved

1. The Prophecies
2. The Players
3. The Message of Jesus Himself
4. The Disciples staying True
5. The Conversions of millions
6. The Salvation of Paul the Apostle
7. The Power of God to Save Today
8. The Prophecies

Verse 7

Isaiah 43 !!!

Verse 8

- This is Pure Christianity
- That God Saves lost man
- That God is Sovereign in Power
- That God who made all, Controls all

# The God of Creation is The God Over Creation

Can God create a Rock He cannot lift?

The answer is... God is so smart that He cannot think of a question so stupid

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, :2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; :3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power,

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made..... John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

## His Awesome Powers Exceed our ability to Understand

Isaiah 40:12

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

Verse 12-13

Paul's Conversion changed the world

Verse 14b-18

Paul had heard His Voice

Acts 9:15-16

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

## Jesus Selected this Vessel while it was still containing Bandini-a-do-do

2 Timothy 2:19-21

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

## Free Vessel Cleaning Ahead

Jesus' First Miracle at Cana  
Water (not always safe) to Wine

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## Turn to John 4:45-54

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Jesus has a way of totally ruining a good funeral  
*the flowers, the casket, the grave site, the photographs*

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## Turn to Mark 5:35-42

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### Did you see the News Yesterday

Millionaire Vic Browning died. He had told his friends that when he died he wanted to be driven in his Cadillac from Houston Texas to Hesperia California, a 20 hr. drive - so they put him in the front seat, put some sunglasses on him and his seat belt - a little bit of Old Spice and off he went.....The Guy's dead Man!!!

Suffering is Involved:  
Imagine An Altar Call at a Crusade

Come and receive eternal Life ~ Forgiveness of Sins ~ Peace that passes all understanding  
To know your purpose for Living and..... come forward and Suffer for Jesus Sake.

**Billy Graham Saying;**

(Where ever you're coming from - Your friends will wait for you, the busses will wait,  
You Just Come)

**Verse 21**

They wanted to kill him

- because what they had always wanted had come
- What all of their teaching had taught had happened
- The core of their very Judaism appeared

But their Hearts refused to submit - Just like their  
fathers in the Wilderness

Acts 7:48

"However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says:  
Acts 7:49 `Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me?  
says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest? Acts 7:50 Has My hand not made all these  
things?' Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the  
Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you!"

**The Hope  
That Comes From The Cross**

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and  
put a new spirit within you; I will take the  
heart of stone out of your flesh and give you  
a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:27 "I will put My Spirit within you  
and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you  
will keep My judgments and do them.