

Part 20 – August 23, 2009

"Paul Appeals to Caesar"

Acts 25:1 - 26:32

Paul appeals to Caesar (25:1-12)

v. 1-5 – An ingenuous request

v. 6-12 – A case-less case?

Paul's defense before Agrippa (25:13-26:32)

v. 13-21 – Passing the buck?

26:1-3 – Paul's introduction

v. 4-11 – Paul the persecutor

v. 12-18 – Paul the believer

Galatians 1:13-16

Paul's testimony of meeting the risen Jesus contains four elements:

1. Paul was persecuting Jesus (**v. 12-15**)
2. Paul was personally commissioned by the Lord Jesus (**v. 16**)

**Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:1;
Col. 1:1; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2 Tim 1:1; Titus 1:1**

3. Paul was sent to the Gentiles (**v. 17**)

Romans 11:13

4. Paul will be used to open spiritual habits and eyes so that they can be saved (**v. 18**)

Acts 16:4; 2 Cor. 4:6

v. 19-23 – The root of the Jewish antagonism

v. 24-32 – Paul's zeal for the glory of God in the church

The Resurrection: The Heart [Heat] of the Matter

- From the perspective of unbelieving Jews, Jesus could not be the Messiah because He was a "nobody" who died as a criminal:
 1. *He was the son of a carpenter from Nazareth, so they thought*
 2. *He did not associate with the elite*
 3. *He identified with the poor*
 4. *He was not a military leader*
 5. *He did not promote the Law and the Traditions of the elders*
 6. *He died an ignominious death on a cross as a criminal*

- If the story had ended at the cross, there would have been no opposition. But Paul was proclaiming that Jesus had risen and that changed everything!

Acts 17:3,18,32; 23:6,8; 24:15,21; 25:19; 26:23

- The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the singular proof that all that Jesus proclaimed about Himself [the I AM's] and about God's love for us is the truth.

John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:19,21; 1 John 1:7; Rom. 1:1-4

- ❖ How do we know Jesus is the Divine Son of God?
- ❖ How do we know Jesus can save us?
- ❖ How do we know God loves and forgives us?
- ❖ How do we know we will rise to eternal life?
- ❖ How do we know Jesus is coming back?

...THE RESURRECTION!!