

Acts 26

Almost a Christian – Life's Greatest Decision

NOTES

Acts 26:1-32

Paul stands before Agrippa

1. Paul began with his manner of life BEFORE he met the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. When Paul's eyes were opened to see his crimes against the Lord Jesus Christ, he made a DECISION to obey the Lord and to turn from darkness to light.
3. Paul said God gave him a PURPOSE for living – life's greatest calling.
4. Paul said he was NOT DISOBEDIENT unto the heavenly vision.
5. Festus used a LOUD VOICE to interrupt Paul (and the Gospel) and to mock him.
6. Paul said he was not mad but spoke forth the words of truth and SOBERNESS.
7. Paul was first fully persuaded HIMSELF of the truth that he spoke to others.
8. Paul THEN persuaded King Agrippa to be a Christian.
9. King Agrippa was ALMOST persuaded to be a Christian.
10. By not believing and receiving Jesus Christ, King Agrippa fully REJECTED Jesus Christ!

Personal Applications

1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History:

*"Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good.
He came into the world to make dead men live!"*

– Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994; English Christian preacher, evangelist, and author)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 25:23-26:19 – Paul stands before Agrippa, the king (Part One)

Title of Today's Message: *Life's Greatest Decision – Turning from DARKNESS to LIGHT!*

PREACHING NOTES

1. King Agrippa came with **great POMP** accompanied by **vain, worldly** people. 25:23-27

- ✓ King Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with **great pomp**...
Acts 12:21; Ecclesiastes 1:2; Isaiah 5:14; 14:11; Ezekiel 7:24; 30:18; 32:12; 33:28; Daniel 4:30; 1 Corinthians 7:31; James 1:11; 1 Peter 1:24; 1 John 2:16
- ✓ Festus introduced Paul as **a spectacle of the world** with no crimes worthy to write about...
Acts 22:22; Luke 23:21-23; 1 Corinthians 4:9

NOTE Oh how the world loves to bask in the spotlight at Vanity Fair!! There are times when we are tempted to covet the pomp of this world (Ps 73). However, do not be fooled. This world will soon pass away and is **all vanity**! James 4:6 and 1 Pet 5:5 say, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble." Proverbs 6:16-17 says that God **hates** "a proud look" and Proverbs 21:4 says, "An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin." It is important for us to get **God's word** on worldly arrogance. If we are living for our Lord Jesus Christ, the world sure ought to look at us as **strangers and pilgrims** (Heb 11:13; 1 Pet 2:11).

2. Paul began with **his manner of life BEFORE** he met **the Lord Jesus Christ**. 25:23-26:11

- ✓ Paul's **manner of life from his youth** was very "religious" – living as a **Jewish Pharisee** – which Agrippa was very well acquainted with...
Acts 24:24; 22:3; 10:2; Philippians 3:3-8
- ✓ Although "religious", Paul **thought** and **did many things contrary to the name of Jesus**...
 - He *thought within himself* that he ought to do many things to oppose Christianity...
 - He *acquired approval* from the religious authorities to wreak havoc on God's church...
 - He *shut many saints up in prison*...
 - He *gave his approval* for the saints to be *put to death*...
 - He *punished Christians often* in every synagogue...
 - He *compelled Christians to blaspheme God* and recant their salvation by faith in Christ...
 - He was *exceedingly mad* against Christians...
 - He *persecuted them* to strange cities...

Galatians 1:13, 14; Philippians 3:6; 1 Timothy 1:13

NOTE Who in this room can say that they have never **THOUGHT** or **DONE** many of these same things related to Christians, or the God of heaven, or the Lord Jesus Christ?? Paul was like many of us who may have had a **form of religion** and was even sincere and zealous about it, but on the inside was full of hatred and anger towards Christians and anyone who tried to speak to him of the Lord Jesus Christ. In Mt 12:36, Jesus said, "But I say unto you, *That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*" Paul told Timothy in 1 Tim 5:24, "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." Imagine living for this world and gaining all it has to offer, and then death comes suddenly (Heb 9:27), and you are thrust into eternity in hell and the lake of fire. That is where Paul's was headed had it not been for his confrontation with the Lord Jesus Christ. **How about you??**

3. When Paul's **eyes were opened** to see his crimes against **the Lord Jesus Christ**, he **made a decision to obey the Lord** and to **TURN** from **darkness to light**. vs 26:12-23

- ✓ It was a **blinding** light – the light from heaven was above the brightness of the sun...
John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 4:5
- ✓ It was a **humbling** light – Paul (and those with him) fell to the earth...
Deuteronomy 8:2, 16; 2 Chronicles 12:7, 12; 32:26; 33:12, 19, 23
- ✓ It was a **personal** light – Jesus called out to him personally saying, Saul, Saul...
Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Romans 2:16; 14:12
- ✓ It was an **offensive** light – Jesus confronted Paul's personal sins as against Him alone...
1 John 3:4; Colossians 2:14
- ✓ It was a **clear** light – Paul understood that it was Jesus – Himself speaking...
John 1:9; Romans 2:15; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Romans 1:20, 21, 28
- ✓ It was an **inviting** light – Jesus was giving a personal invitation for salvation...
 - Come...Open your eyes from blindness...
 - Come...Turn from darkness to light...
 - Come...Turn from the power of Satan unto God...
 - Come...Receive forgiveness of sins...
 - Come...Receive an inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Christ...
 John 1:12; 3:15-18; Romans 10:9-14; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 22:17; Psalm 34:8
- ✓ God had a purpose to **MAKE** Paul useful for His glory – if he would choose to follow Him...
 - To become a minister of the gospel...
 - To become a minister of the word of reconciliation...
 - To become a faithful witness to what he had seen and heard...
 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Isaiah 52:7; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Acts 13:39;
- ✓ Paul was **not disobedient** to the heavenly vision...
John 13:17; 14:15; James 1:22-26; 1 Samuel 15:22; Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Isaiah 1:18-20

NOTE When God, who is rich in mercy (Eph 2:4) and great love towards the people of the world for whom Christ died (Gal 1:4; 1 Jo 2:2), **graciously reveals the light of His truth** to a man, or a woman, or a boy, or a girl, it is not something to be taken lightly. Paul's story summarizes for us the personal approach that God will take with **EVERY** person. The Bible says in 2 Pet 3:9, "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" If God is speaking to you today, you **MUST** be obedient to His heavenly calling. **The Bible says TODAY is the day of salvation.** Heb 4:7-8 says, "*To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*" God loves you so much He paid the ultimate price for your soul – the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. He does not want you to perish. However, you will perish if you forsake His call. Your choice will be made before you leave this room today. Make no mistake about it – **if you decide to do nothing** and defer the decision for another day, **you are in fact rejecting Christ's invitation today** to come to Him and forsake this world.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 - ✓ Has the God of heaven and earth opened your eyes to the truth today?
 - ✓ Today is the day you must call upon God to save you from His judgment and wrath to come.
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?
 - ✓ Will you be obedient to the "*heavenly vision*" – God speaking through His Holy Spirit today?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from History:

"And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee."

— King Asa (reigned over Judah 911-870 BC; did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 26:16-23 – Paul stands before Agrippa, the king (Part Two)

Title of Today's Message: *Life's Greatest Purpose – Witnessing for our Lord, both to small and great!*

PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul said God gave him a **PURPOSE** for living – *life's greatest calling*. 26:16-18

- ✓ God had a **PURPOSE** for Paul's life – to make Paul *an ambassador* for His glory...
 - *To make thee a minister and a witness of the gospel...*
Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 1:12; 3:15-18;
Romans 10:9-14; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 22:17; Psalm 34:8
 - *Unto whom now I send thee...*
 - *To open their eyes from blindness...*
 - *To turn them from darkness to light...*
 - *To turn them from the power of Satan unto God...*
 - *That they may receive forgiveness of sins, and...*
 - *Inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith in Christ...*

NOTE As a Christian, you have a **life priority** that was designed by God to set the tone for everything you do, every day of your life, no matter what happens – on good days, and on bad days. Paul said (Php 3:13), *"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* He was always focused on the *"one thing"* that was the most important – being a faithful minister and witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

2. Paul said he was **NOT disobedient** unto *the heavenly vision*. 26:19-23

- ✓ Paul was **obedient to GO TO THE WORLD** and preach the gospel to every creature...
Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15
- ✓ Paul preached **repentance toward God...** (You must turn to God.)
Acts 26:18; 20:21; 17:30-31
- ✓ Paul preached **faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ...** (You must put your faith in Christ alone.)
Acts 20:21; 10:36-43; Romans 10:9-13, 17; Ephesians 1:12-14; 2:8, 9
- ✓ *For these causes...* the Jews sought to kill me... (The cross of Christ offended people.)
2 Corinthians 1:8-10; 2 Timothy 3:11; 2 Timothy 3:12; 4:17, 18
- ✓ *Having therefore obtained help of God...* (God was his help and strength.)
Acts 14:19, 20; 16:25, 26; 18:9, 10; 21:31-33; 23:10, 11, 16; 1 Samuel 7:12; Ezra 8:31; Psalm 18:47; 66:12; 118:10-13; 124:1-3, 8

- ✓ ***I continue unto this day...*** (Paul did not quit on God.)
John 8:31; 15:9; Acts 13:43; 14:22; Colossians 1:23; 4:2; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 3:14; Hebrews 13:1
- ✓ ***Witnessing both to small and great...*** (Paul witnessed to every man.)
Acts 20:20-27; Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 4:2; Revelation 20:12
- ✓ ***Saying none other things...*** (Paul had a simple, Biblical message.)
Luke 16:29-31; 24:27, 44, 46; John 1:17, 45; 3:14, 15; 5:39, 46; Acts 17:24-31; 24:14; 28:23
 - 10 out of 10 people die – you have an appointment with death and will die (Heb 9:27).
 - After death is judgment – you will be judged for every thought, word and deed (Heb 9:27).
 - God will judge you by His perfect standard – the Law (Rom 2:16; 3:19-20; Jas 2:12).
 - You have broken God's Law and will be guilty on Judgment Day (1 Jo 3:4; Jas 2:10-11).
 - Hell is God's eternal prison and will be your eternal punishment (Mt 7:13-14, 22-23).
 - **But**, Jesus Christ became your sin on Calvary's cross and took God's wrath for you (2 Cor 5:21).
 - Jesus Christ was buried and rose again the 3rd day defeating sin and death (1 Cor 15:1-8).
 - **You must** repent and believe – by faith put your trust in Christ alone to save you (Eph 2:8,9).
 - Great is the mystery of godliness – God became a man and paid the price for your crimes!!

1 Timothy 3:16 – And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

❖ A lesson from King Asa's life... 2 Chronicles 14-16

The first 35 years of his reign...	2 Chronicles 14:1-19
The last 6 years of his reign...	2 Chronicles 16:1-14
The disease in his feet ...	2 Chronicles 16:12
Compared to beautiful feet ...	Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15

NOTE Have you been reminded today of how important your job is as an ambassador for our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:20)? When we look at Asa's life, we see a man who at one time was so bold in his **TRUST** in God and in his obedience to God's commandments. He was zealous for God's people to seek God and to fear and obey Him. But, something happened to Asa as he grew older. Over time, **he grew to trust less in his God** and more in **his own strength** and the strength of the world around him. **He became a friend of the world** and was rebuked by God's prophet. Hanani the prophet said, "*For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.*" The Bible records for us that "*Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing...And...oppressed some of the people the same time.*" The Bible then records for us that from that point forward, Asa "*was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.*" Then, he died. What a sad story! I wonder how many of God's people who were once zealous to preach the gospel to the lost (**beautiful feet**) have become friends of the world and trust more in themselves and the world than the God of heaven? If we are not careful, God will give us a "*disease*" which will prevent us from doing the **one thing we are on this earth to do** – **be a faithful witness** for our Lord Jesus!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 - ✓ Has the God of heaven and earth opened your eyes to the truth today?
 - ✓ Today is the day you must call upon God to save you from His judgment and wrath to come.
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?
 - ✓ Will you be obedient to the "*heavenly vision*" – God speaking through His Holy Spirit today?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from History:

"In the great day, when the muster-roll shall be read, of all those who are converted through fine music, and church decoration, and religious exhibitions and entertainments, they will amount to the tenth part of nothing; but it will always please God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. Keep to your preaching; and if you do anything beside, do not let it throw your preaching to the background. In the first place preach, and in the second place, preach, and in the third place, preach."

"Believe in preaching the love of Christ, believe in preaching the atoning sacrifice, believe in preaching the new birth, believe in preaching the whole counsel of God. The old hammer of the gospel will still break the rock in pieces; the ancient fire of Pentecost will still burn among the multitude. Try nothing new, but go on with preaching, and if we all preach with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, the results of preaching will astound us."

— Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; British Baptist Preacher, Philadelphia Church Period; "prince of preachers")

Scriptures for Today: Acts 26:24-25 – Paul stands before Agrippa, the king (Part Three)

Title of Today's Message: *The Foolishness of Preaching – the wisdom and power of God!*

PREACHING NOTES

1. Festus **used** a **LOUD** voice **to interrupt** Paul (and the Gospel) and **to mock him**. 26:24

- ✓ Satan often uses a "loud voice" to **come against God**, His **gospel**, and His **people**...
Genesis 39:14; 2 Chronicles 32:18; Acts 7:57; 13:6-12
- ✓ For **the preaching of the cross** is **to them that perish foolishness**...
1 Cor 1:17-24; 2:14; 3:19; Acts 17:18, 32; 2 Cor 4:4; 2 Peter 3:3-4; Mk 3:20-30; John 8:48, 52; 10:20, 21

NOTE Oh how the devil loves to use a "loud voice" or a major disruption to put a stop to Bible preaching and the preaching of the gospel and the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In **Acts 7:57**, the unbelieving Jews put a stop to Stephen's preaching as they turned child-like and yelled with a "loud voice" **in opposition to the message from God's man that was intended to save them if they would hear and obey it**. In **Acts 13:7**, a man desired to hear the word of God from Paul and Barnabas, but Elymas the sorcerer (a false prophet) withstood them. As Paul preached to King Agrippa, **Festus was not hearing the truth – it was foolishness to him**. Therefore, being convicted by his own conscience, he tried to put a stop to it. **Proverbs 1:7** says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." In **Genesis 19:14**, Lot was trying to save his son-in-laws and they thought he was mocking them – shortly after they perished in hell fire from heaven. In **2 Kings 2:23**, a large number of little children mocked Elisha (God's prophet) and two she bears came and killed 42 of them. In **2 Chronicles 30:10**, many of God's people mocked the posts of Hezekiah calling them to come to keep the Passover. In **2 Chronicles 36:15-16**, God sent messengers to His people because He had compassion on them, but they mocked them and despised their words. In **Matthew 27:29**, the Roman soldiers mocked the living Word – our Lord Jesus Christ. In **Acts 17:32**, Paul preached a powerful sermon at Athens and "some mocked." The truth of the Bible is this – all through history, God has sent His messengers (prophets and preachers and believers) to the world to speak His truth to them that they might be saved. Right now, **most people are rejecting the very truth that could save their soul from eternity in hell and the lake of fire**. We must be gentle and patient with people (**2 Tim 2:24-26**) as we seek in meekness to instruct "those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." If you are saved today, praise the Lord for His longsuffering toward you (**2 Pet 3:9**). If you are not saved, there is no doubt you are here today for one reason – to hear and trust Christ alone for salvation.

2. Paul said he was **not mad** but **spoke** "forth the words of truth" and **SOBERNESS.**" 26:25

- ✓ God has always used a "loud voice" for His glory – His "loud voice" will prevail...
Exodus 19:16; Deut 27:14; Acts 7:57; 13:6-12; 2 Chron 20:19; Ezra 10:12; Nehemiah 9:4; Matt 27:46, 50; Luke 19:37; John 11:43; Acts 7:60; 14:10; 16:28; 2 Tim 4:2; Rev 5:2, 12; 6:10; 7:10; 12:10; 14:7
- ✓ But unto us which are saved **it is the power of God...**
1 Corinthians 1:17-2:16; 15:2; Galatians 6:12-14; Acts 13:41; Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 2:15, 16; 4:3-4; 10:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:10; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23
- ✓ That **your faith** should not stand in the wisdom of men, but **in the power of God...**
1 Corinthians 2:5; Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 4:7

NOTE After Festus' "loud voice", the only time "loud voice" shows up in the holy Bible is the book of Revelation. **Rev 5:2** says, "And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?" In **Rev 5:12**, heaven resounds with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." In **Rev 6:10**, the souls of them that were slain cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" In **Rev 7:10**, a great multitude in heaven before the Lamb's throne cried with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." In **Rev 8:13**, an angel said with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!" In **Rev 12:10**, a loud voice is heard in heaven saying, "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." In **Rev 14:6-7**, an angel, "having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of the waters." The last "loud voice" of our Bible is an angel who cries **after heaven opens the second time and the Lord Jesus Christ comes with ten thousands of His saints to execute judgment on the planet** in **Rev 19:17**, "to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God." **Why should we wait until we are in heaven to use a "loud voice" to bring glory to our great God and Saviour?** It is time for us now to **speak the words of truth and soberness to the lost before they perish.** We must use our "loud voice" as a herald (**2 Tim 4:2**) to preach the gospel of peace. **God has chosen to use the foolishness of preaching to save souls. God has chosen to use you.** It is time for you to "Go" and "preach the gospel to every creature" while there is still time!!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now.**
 - ✓ Has the God of heaven and earth opened your eyes to the truth today?
 - ✓ Today is the day you must call upon God to save you from His judgment and wrath to come.
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?
 - ✓ Will you be obedient to your heavenly Father in all areas of life?
 - ✓ Have you been a faithful preacher of the cross of Christ to the lost world for God's glory?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from History: "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest."
 – Paul (Acts 26:27; Paul preaching to the conscience of King Agrippa)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 26:26-32 – Paul stands before Agrippa, the king (Part Four)**Title of Today's Message:** Paul's Persuasion Tactics – *how to be more effective for our Lord!***PREACHING NOTES****1. Paul was first *fully persuaded BEFORE* of the truth that he spoke to others. 26:26**

- ✓ Paul was *fully persuaded* about the love of God, *which is in Christ Jesus our Lord...* and he *knew whom he believed*, and *was persuaded* that He was able to *save his soul ...*
 Romans 8:31-39; 1 Timothy 1:12
- ✓ Abraham *staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief*, but was *strong in faith* – and *being fully persuaded* that what God promised, He was able also to perform...
 Romans 4:21; Hebrews 11:13; 2 Chronicles 32:1-22

NOTE Oh how important it is for us to **BELIEVE** the message we preach!! Are **YOU** convinced of God's holiness, and righteousness, and eternal justice? Are **YOU** convinced of your own crimes against Almighty God? Are **YOU** convinced that Christ died for **your sins**? Are **YOU** trusting in Christ **ALONE** for **your salvation** and to escape God's wrath and judgment to come? Are **YOU** forever thankful for forgiveness of sins? Are **YOU** in awe of God's amazing grace and mercy?? Sometimes, I think we need to be shaken to the reality of what we SAY we believe!! Know this; if you are not fully persuaded in what you believe and in whom you believe, then why should someone listen to you and forsake all to follow Christ? Do you *really* believe in the power of the Gospel to save souls? Do you *really* believe that **your friends** and **your family** and the **strangers around you every day** will spend eternity in hell and the lake of fire? Do you *really* believe that Jesus will come back at any moment in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? When you are **FULLY PERSUADED** yourself **FIRST**, you will be strong in faith and your ability to persuade others of the truth that you believe and preach will increase – and that will bring more glory to God!

2. Paul *ALMOST persuaded* King Agrippa to be a Christian. 26:26-32

- ✓ Paul's goal was to *persuade* the king to turn to God and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...
 Acts 13:43; 18:4; 19:26; Romans 2:15; 9:1; 2 Corinthians 4:2; 5:11; Galatians 1:10; Hebrews 9:14; 10:2

CON - SCIENCE = "with knowledge"Highlights from Paul's message and persuasive tactics for us to learn from:

- "*For the king knoweth of these things*" (He spoke to the king as if he **KNEW** the truth.)
- "*before whom I speak freely*" (He did not hold anything back from the king.)
- "*for I am persuaded that none of*" (He was persuaded himself – **first** – of this truth.)
- "*these things are hidden from him*" (He spoke directly to the king's **conscience**.)
- "*for this was not done in a corner*" (He did not give the king room to justify his sin.)
- "*King Agrippa*" (He spoke the king's name – it was **personal**.)
- "*believest thou the prophets?*" (He provoked the king to respond with his beliefs.)
- "*I know that thou believest*" (He ended with a plea to the king's **conscience**.)
- "*I would to God...all that hear me*" (He had a genuine desire for **the whole world to be saved**.)

❖ A reminder of the holy Bible truth...

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK!

God's Message:

1. Sin
2. Righteousness
3. Judgment



Enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season



Their conscience also bearing witness



Fear of death




The Certainty of Judgment

The Reality of Hell

We join God at work...

Our Message:

1. Sin
2. Righteousness
3. Judgment

John 1:9 And that was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Romans 2:15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness...

John 8:9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went one by one...

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness...

Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus...

Matt 10:28 Fear not them which kill the body...fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

NOTE We must remember that we have the words of eternal life and the gospel that will save souls from everlasting punishment. The Bible says in 2 Cor 5:11, "*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*" Jude was so convinced of the coming judgment of God by the Lord Jesus Christ upon the ungodly and the church's critical role in saving souls that he said in Jude 22 and 23, "*And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*" It is time for us to be a little more convincing to the lost world. It is time for us to become "*fools*" for Christ's sake and glory!!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
 ✓ Today is the day you must call upon God to save you from His judgment and wrath to come.
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?
 ✓ Will you be obedient to the "*heavenly vision*" – God speaking through His Holy Spirit today?