

Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 22:30-23:11

Thursday, Oct 8
Sunday, Oct 11

MESSAGE NOTES

Acts 22:30-23:11 NASB

notes

³⁰ But on the next day, wishing to know for certain why he had been accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the Council to assemble, and brought Paul down and set him before them. ²³⁻¹ Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day." ² The high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth. ³ The Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try to me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?" ⁴ But the bystanders said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" ⁵ And Paul said, "I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

1 John 1:5-9 NASB

5This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A good conscience is an awareness of our sinful condition.

A bad conscience is a lack of awareness of our sinful condition.

But perceiving (ginosko) that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul began crying out in the Council, "Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of a Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!" ⁷As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹And there occurred a great uproar; and some of the scribes of the Pharisaic party stood up and began to argue heatedly, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man; suppose a spirit or an

angel has spoken to him?" ¹⁰And as a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and take him away by force, and bring him into the barracks.

notes

The Pharisees believed in a spiritual realm and eternal life, and that our works determine how we spend eternity.

The Sadducees rejected eternal life and the spiritual realm, and were motivated by power, money and control.

What is your hope in?

¹¹But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

"What have I gotten myself into?"

Study the culture: Where are people placing their hope?

73% of Americans believe there is a heaven, 62% believe there is a hell. Pew Research

53% of those who believe in heaven say people who do not believe in God can go to heaven.

43% of Christians say some non-Christian religions can lead to eternal life in heaven.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/11/23/views-on-the-afterlife/>

Point to Jesus as the only hope for eternal life.

John 14:6 NASB - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

Romans 3:23 NASB - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 6:23 NASB- *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 10:9 NASB- *that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, then you will be saved.*

Ask Jesus for courage.

"Take courage' for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

GROUP DISCUSSION

The Power of a Testimony: Book of Acts
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 22:30-23:11, October 8th & 11th, 2026
Paul's witness to the Sanhedrin.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: If your life had a theme song, what would it be?

Read Aloud: 22:30-23:11

1. What do you think Paul meant when he said he had lived with a “good conscience before God”? What is the difference between having a good conscience and thinking you are a good person? What is the danger of convincing ourselves that something isn't sinful simply because it no longer bothers our conscience?
2. Paul understood the differences between the Pharisees and Sadducees. Why is it important for Christians to understand what people around them believe? Where do you see people in our culture placing their hope apart from Jesus? What do people trust for security, purpose, or hope that ultimately cannot deliver?
3. What makes the hope found in Jesus different from the hope offered by the world? How would you explain to someone why Jesus is the only hope for eternal life?
4. Why do you think Jesus told Paul, “Take courage,” after everything Paul had experienced? What would it look like for you to ask Jesus for courage this week? Who is one person in your life who needs to hear about the hope you have in Jesus?