

The Foundation of the Church: “Built on a Reasonable Defense”

Acts 21:37-22:29

December 7, 2025

I. Introduction: Paul’s Identity as a Jew (21:37-40)

II. Paul’s Defense (1-21)

- a. Paul’s credentials (1-5)
- b. Jesus’s credentials (6-11)
- c. Ananias’s credentials (12-16)
- d. Paul’s mission (17-21)

III. Conclusion: Paul’s Identity as a Roman (22:22-29)

LET’S GO DEEPER:

1. Some try to bring change by violent revolution (21:38). Instead, Paul works for change by asking for an opportunity to speak (21:39). What do these differences in methods mean for our ministry? (Also check 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).
2. In verses 1-5, why would Paul’s life before Jesus be important to his Jewish audience?
3. In verse 8, Paul asks, “Who are you, Lord?” What does this chapter reveal to us about Jesus’s identity (especially in verses 6-11)?
4. Based on Paul’s testimony, is he in charge of his own career path? What verses, words, and phrases indicate who is calling the shots in Paul’s life? In what ways can you see God directing your life?
5. What idea is emphasized in verses 22-29, and why does that matter for Paul’s story? What lessons do we learn from how Paul defends himself in these verses?