

## Acts 26, A Resurrection People

vs. 1-23, Before King Agrippa II

There was a time when I failed to see and live the truth.

- I did many things in opposition to the name of Jesus.
- It was in Jerusalem I locked up many of the saints.
- I agreed with them being put to death.
- I did what I could to punish Jesus followers. I was filled with rage.

**Galatians 1:13-14** For you have heard about my former way of life in Judaism: I intensely persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. 14 I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries among my people, because I was extremely zealous for the traditions of my ancestors.

**Philippians 3:5-6** circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; 6 regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

My life was interrupted!

- I was traveling to Damascus.
- I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun.
- I heard a voice, "Saul, Saul, what are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads."
- I asked, "Who are you?"
- The Lord replied, "I am Jesus...I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and a witness of what you have seen and will see of me....I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me."
- I am simply testifying to the same thing the prophets and Moses already said, that the Messiah would suffer, and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light to our people and to the Gentiles.

Paul is speaking directly to the Jewish worldview.

God is the creator and life-giver.

Why not, resurrection?

And why not the resurrection of Jesus as the fulfillment of life given?

vs. 24, Festus exclaimed, "You're out of your mind, Paul!"

**1 Corinthians 1:18-19, 22-25** For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. **19** For it is written, **I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.** (Isaiah 29:14)

**22** For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. **24** Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, **25** because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the gospel

1. It is a message rooted in Israel's scriptures (Moses and the prophets).
2. It is a message about Jesus as Messiah (the fulfillment of Israel's hopes).
3. It is a message about the suffering Messiah. He must suffer and the suffering will be redemptive and atoning.
4. Jesus is the first to rise from the dead. This is the beginning of God's new world. He will make all things new.
5. This is a message about God's light shining on all people. Salvation is for anyone who believes (Jew and Gentile).
6. Jesus - the promised, suffering, risen, and missionary Messiah, is the human, glorious face of the one true and living God.

**vs. 25-29**, I am not out of my mind.  
I am speaking words of truth and good judgment.

Jesus followers are resurrection people! Jesus is alive and it changes everything!

**Question:** Do you believe the gospel to be truth and good judgment? Do you live in such a way that demonstrates the gospel is truth and good judgment? Are you viewed as a bit strange in your wider world? If so, how? And why?

Agrippa, Do you believe the prophets?  
“Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?”

Once again, Paul’s heart is wide open and on display. My desire King Agrippa is that you and everyone here listening to our conversation will experience the beauty of Jesus as their savior. It is a life-altering experience, worth every breath of my being!

**vs. 30-32**, This man is not doing anything to deserve death or imprisonment. He asked to go to Rome...send him to Rome!

**Question:** How does the resurrection of Jesus affect your everyday? How does it give perspective?  
How does it give hope?  
How does it give motivation?  
How does it give endurance?