



# THE ZEAL OF THE LORD

THE BOOK OF ACTS

## Bible study for the week starting March 26, 2023

### SHARE

What is the most compelling speech you ever heard or gave? What made that speech so engaging? Who's testimony have you heard that had inspired you? Have you ever heard a testimony of someone that frustrated you? Why did you become frustrated by their words?

### READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. From Wednesday's sermon, re-read Paul's speech to the people of Jerusalem? **Acts 22:1-21**. What sticks out from his discourse? Was most of his words about his own experience? Or was most of his words about the truth that they should know?
  - a. What role does personal testimony play in preaching? When does it/ can it go to far? When does it/can it not go far enough?
  - b. What was the response of his hearers (Acts 22:22)
2. Paul is then taken to the Sanhedrin and only gets on line out... Read **Acts 23:1**
  - a. Could you say those words? Have you fulfilled your duty to God in all good conscience?
  - b. **Acts 23:2** Do you think Paul planned on this reaction to his words? How did Paul respond? **ACTS 23:3-5**
  - c. Whose approval does Paul seek? Men or Gods? Whose approval do you seek?
3. **Read Acts 23: 6-10** Goes from bad to worse...Paul launches a "grenade" to divide the crowd. Have you ever been in a room with such passionate division?
4. **Read ACTS 23:11** What does God say to Paul? I'm gonna rescue you again?

### PRAY

Pray and thank God for the times He with us. Help us stand for Him. Seek His approval and not just the approval of others.

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Acts 22:30-23:11 “Audience of Many, Approval of One.”

March 26, 2023 – Pastor Ben Schrank

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ATONEMENT was the starting point for Paul...not the end goal.

God is zealous for you...He is also zealous for your ENEMIES.

“But I say to you, LOVE your enemies and PRAY for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:44).

Sanhedrin: “SITTING TOGETHER”

Audience of MANY... Approval of ONE

“For am I now seeking the APPROVAL of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).

Pharisees: “SEPARATED ONES”

Sadducees: “RIGHTEOUS ONES”

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness EXCEEDS that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20).

“The following night the Lord stood BY him and said, “TAKE COURAGE...” (ACTS 23:11).

“But just as we have been APPROVED by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts” (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

*For midweek read Acts 23:12-35*

*For next weekend read John 12:12-19*