

## An Inconvenient Truth

March 31, 2024

Resurrection Sunday

### Acts 21 – Paul at Jerusalem

- Paul gives account of things God has done among the Gentiles through his ministry
- Rumor that Paul is telling Jews to turn their backs on the laws of Moses
- Paul went to the temple – Jews from Asia saw him and roused a mob against him – dragged him out of the temple and tried to kill him
- Roman commander arrested him and bound him in chains
- Paul asks to talk to the people to offer his defense

### Paul's Testimony

- Zealous Pharisee
- Persecuted followers of the Way – some to death and in prison
- Road to Damascus encounter
- Encounter in the temple – Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles
- Crowd wants to kill him

### Paul taken into custody then taken to the Jewish High Council

- Acts 23:6 ...I am on trial because my hope is in the resurrection of the dead!"
- A plan to kill Paul
- Commander sends Paul with soldiers to Caesarea to Governor Felix along with a letter
- Felix – I will hear your case when your accusers arrive
- Accusers
  - This man is a troublemaker
  - Stirring up riots among the Jews
  - Trying to desecrate the temple
- Paul
  - These men cannot prove what they accuse me of doing
  - I have the same hope these men have that God will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous
  - Because of this, I always try to maintain and clear conscience before God and all people
  - One time I shouted out "I am on trial before you today because I believe in the resurrection of the dead"
- Meeting adjourned

## Felix and Drusilla

- Listened to Paul as he told them about faith in Christ Jesus
- He reasoned with them about righteousness, self-control, and the coming day of judgment
  - Righteousness – being made right with God
  - Self-control – living free from sin
  - The coming day of judgment – we will all stand before God and give an account
- Felix became frightened – Go away for now
- When it is more convenient, I'll call for you again
- An Inconvenient Truth

### Agrippa to Paul – You may speak in your defense

- On trial because of my hope in the fulfillment of God's promise made to our ancestors
- Jesus sent me to the Gentile Acts 26:16–19
- Acts 26:22–23
- Acts 26:25
- Acts 26:27–29

### Paul on Trial

- On trial because of my hope in the fulfillment of God's promise made to our ancestors
- That Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead
- Because I believe in the resurrection of the dead
- That God will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous
- Righteousness, self control, and the coming day of judgment
- Raise both the righteous and the unrighteous
- Daniel 12:2 (NLT) — 2 Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.
  - The coming day of judgment

### The message of the Resurrection will never be convenient

- Matthew 28:11–15
- Luke 14:16–20
- Luke 18:22–23
- Turn your life right side up
- 2 Corinthians 6:2
- Romans 10:9–10