

ACTS 26 (ESV) - "Always PREPARED to Make a Defense"

ACTS 26 ¹²"In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to 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 place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

¹⁹"Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²²To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

²⁴And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." ²⁵But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

²⁸And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" ²⁹And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

*"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being _____ to make a _____ to anyone who asks you for a reason for the _____ that is in you; yet do it with _____ and _____, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**" - 1 Peter 3:14-16*

HOPE = UNshakable Big "H" Hope in the R_____ of King Jesus, True R_____ being Established in His Kingdom, and the R_____ of the Dead unto Eternity

DEFENSE = Sincere, Personal, Humble, True, and Reasonable W_____ to your UNshakable Faith in the Gospel of Jesus as the Christ

PREPARED = P_____ in the Spirit at All Times, P_____ Truth in His Word, Being Personally P_____ by the Truth, P_____ the Truth in Word and Deed with Others

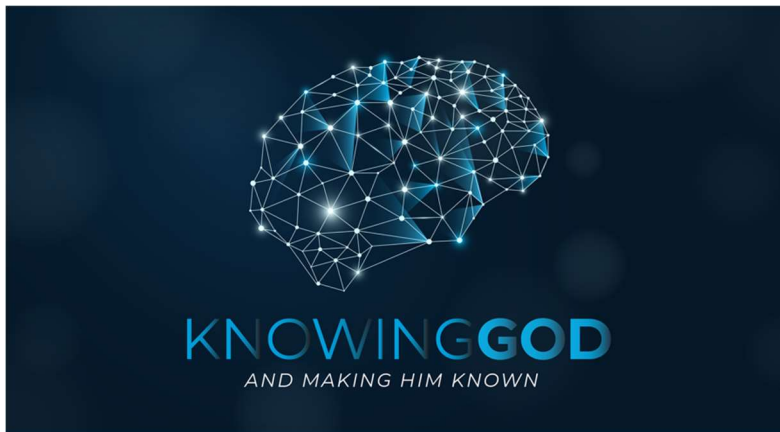
RESPECT = H_____ (First) Christ the Lord as Holy, and then (Second) every God-Given A_____ under Him

GENTLENESS = UNshakable L_____, C_____, and E_____ toward Unbelievers

*"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. _____ **may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the _____, after being captured by him to do his will.**" - 2 Timothy 2:24-26*

It's for US to _____, for HIM to _____

ARE YOU PREPARED?



ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude/Welcome

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

"How He Loves"

Pastoral Prayer

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

"Hosanna"

Bless and Send the Children

Sermon – Acts 26:1-32

"O Praise the Name"

"You've Already Won"

WELCOME BOXES FOR OUR GUESTS - If you're a guest with us today, we're so glad you're here! **Please be sure to pick up a Welcome Box at our welcome desk before you leave today!**

HOLY WEEK @ NWG CAMPUS and in the COMMUNITY– We invite everyone to join us for a **Family Passover and Potluck THIS Maundy Thursday, April 6, 5:30pm at NWG Campus**. This is a great opportunity to remember and celebrate Christ in the Passover, our perfect spotless Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world! TODAY is the LAST DAY to sign up for this, so please do so, if you haven't already. The sign-up sheet is in the Family Room.

We also invite everyone to join us for a **Community Good Friday service at 7pm on April 7 at Bailey Christian Church**, as we together remember the seven last words of Christ on the Cross.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating together **Resurrection Sunday on April 9!** There will be NO older kids "Saplings" class for Trinity Kids that Sunday. The kids have been working on a special song that they will share with us during that service. **Parents, please know that Rachel Faber would like to do a quick sound check with all the kids right after service TODAY, thank you!**

HOLY WEEK FAMILY CHALLENGE – Did you get yours yet? We have a gift for your family, the Holy Week Family Challenge! It will give you a clear map to lead your family confidently through Holy Week with special faith-based activities, Bible readings, and worship-filled experiences. It's a wonderful way to prepare your hearts for Resurrection Sunday while also making family memories together. **Pick yours up today in the Family Room!**

WOMEN'S GIDEON BIBLE STUDY – All the Ladies are invited to participate in the Priscilla Shirer "Gideon Bible Study," **starting on Tuesday, April 18, 6-7:30pm** at NWG Campus and ending the week of May 30th. We look forward to your participation! Contact Mary Beth by email/text: marybeth4health@gmail.com or Kristi Foster if you are interested. We need to order books this week for you, thank you!

UNSHAKABLE FOUNDATIONS CONFERENCE (April 15, 9am-3pm @ BR Campus)

Guest speaker Elizabeth Urbanowicz of Foundation Worldview will lead us through 5 Key Sessions on how to teach our children to engage culture from a biblical worldview. This conference is only 2 weeks away, so be sure to register or find out more information by going to www.tfefc.org/ufc23