

**“Here I am,” or “Surely not me!”:
Which One Are You?
Acts 26:19-32
August 20, 2023**

V 20 *Repent* – Gr *metanoeo* change one’s mind; think differently; concur subsequently
Turn – turn around; go back; return; turn
Doing deeds *worthy of* repentance; *appropriate to* repentance

V 23 Here Paul presents the Gospel message. You are saved when you believe the Gospel. You then change from the domain of darkness to the domain of light.

Genesis 1:3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

John 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Vv 24,25 Festus said, literally, “Paul, you are insane!” Paul answered with the gentleness and reverence of which Peter spoke, 1 Peter 3:15.

V 26 “with confidence” = “to speak freely, open, fearlessly”

The message of redemption is straightforward and clear, and that should allow us to share it fearlessly, since we know what we are saying. See 1 Cor 14:7,8

Nothing about Christianity had been done in secret, in some secluded geographic location unknown to the world. Jerusalem sat in a prominent location within the Roman Empire, at the gateway to the east, a true crossroads of the nations. Calvary’s hill sat along a road, and Pilate had ordered “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS” to be placed upon Jesus’ cross, written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. Jesus had appeared to over 500 people after His resurrection (1 Cor 15:6), and Herod

Agrippa II had been well acquainted with the course of the Christian movement.

V 27 If Agrippa admitted that he did believe the prophets, he would lose face with Festus, who had just called Paul insane; if Agrippa admitted that he did not believe the prophets, he would lose face with the Jewish people, before whose eyes he presented himself a devout Jew.

V 28 Agrippa dodges the question, an adroit move by a professional politician. He is *probably* stating something like, “You think you can turn me into a Christian with these few words.”

V 29 What irony, that Paul, who once put people into chains for being Christians, is now begging people to become Christians, while in chains. How can this be?

The answer is verse 19 “So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Paul cooperated with his Creator’s plan for his life, once confronted with the heavenly vision. See these examples:

Abraham in Genesis 22:1 . . . “Here I am.”

Jacob in Genesis 31:11 . . . “Here I am.”

Moses in Exodus 3:4 . . . “Here I am.”

Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:4 . . . “Here I am.”

Ananias in Acts 9:10 . . . Here I am, Lord.”

To Gideon in Judges 6:14 “. . . Go . . .”

To Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:5 “. . . I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

To Hosea in Hosea 1:2 “. . . “Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry. . .”

Gabriel to Mary in Luke 1:31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.”

Mary to Gabriel in Luke 1:38 . . . “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” . . .

To Peter in Acts 10:20 “. . . go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings . . .”

And, the exception that proves the rule:

Jonah in Jonah 1:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh . . .”

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. . .(please also see Jonah 3:2,3)

How many believers spend their lives in a fish’s stomach because they prove disobedient to the heavenly vision that God gives them?

Romans 12:1,2 The attitude of the “living sacrifice”:

“Here I am.”