SENT: A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS Acts 22:1-23 New Life Fellowship – Pastor Joe Green Sunday, October 20, 2024

1. Let GOD ... Your Work For Him.

Acts 22:1-2 (NIV2011) "When [the crowd] was silent, [Paul] said to them in Aramaic: <sup>1</sup> 'Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.' <sup>2</sup> When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic. they became very quiet."

Acts 22:3-5 (NIV2011) "Then Paul said: <sup>3</sup> '<u>I am a Jew</u>, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished."

Acts 22:6-10 (NIV2011) "[Paul said]... 'About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from Heaven flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a Voice say to me, "Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute Me?" <sup>8</sup> "Who are You, Lord?" I asked. "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting," He replied. <sup>9</sup> My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the Voice of Him who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup> "What shall I do, LORD?" I asked. "Get up," the LORD said, "and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do."

Acts 22:11-15 (NIV2011) Paul continued... "My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. <sup>12</sup> A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the Law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. <sup>13</sup> He stood beside me and said, "Brother Saul, receive your sight!" And at that very moment I was able to see him. <sup>14</sup> Then he said: "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth. <sup>15</sup> You will be His witness to all people of what you have seen and heard."

Acts 22:16 (NIV2011) Ananias challenged Saul... "What are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name."

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV1984) "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Acts 22:17 (NIV2011) Paul said... "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the Temple, I fell into a trance..."

Acts 22:18-21 (NIV2011) Paul said... "I saw the LORD speaking to me. 'Quick!' He said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about Me.' <sup>19</sup> 'LORD,' I replied, 'these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in You. <sup>20</sup> And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Acts 22:22-23 (NIV2011) "The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, 'Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!' <sup>23</sup> They [began] shouting and throwing off [tearing] their cloaks and flinging dust into the air..."

NEW LIFE

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