

The Book of ACTS
Chapters 25 – 26
“From Almost To Alright!”

Chapter 25 - “Court PV” (Paulevision)

(v1-12) The Appeal

(v13-22) The Accusation

(v23-27) The Audience

Chapter 26 – “The Argument”

(v1-11) **Argument #1- HOPE-** (*elpis*)- a joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation. Paul said “of the promise made by God to our fathers” (the messiah to come) & the hope that God raises the dead (eternal life).

The HOPE of the Christian is described in scripture as: (1) A GOOD HOPE - 2 Thess 2:16-17- Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. (2) A BLESSED HOPE - Titus 2:11-14- For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (3) A LIVING HOPE - 1 Peter 1:3-5- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(v12-23) **Argument #2- FAITH** – (*pistis*)- persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation.

- (v16) Paul’s (our) calling: to be a minister (servant) & witness to this faith in Jesus Christ!

- (v18) Paul’s (our) purpose: (1) to open people’s eyes (John ch. 9) (2) to turn people from darkness (immoral destruction) to light (righteous living) - 2 Cor 4:3-6- But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (3) to turn people from the power of Satan to God - 1 John 3:8-9- He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. Heb 2:14-16- Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (4) to receive forgiveness of sins- Rev 20:11-15- Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire. In Isaiah 1:18- "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (5) to receive an inheritance. (Gal 3:26,29; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Rom 8:16-17; Eph 1:13-14; Gal 4:1-7; Mt. 25:34; 1 Peter 3:9; James 2:5; 1 Peter 3-4)

- (v20) Always share the complete message- “Repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”

- (v22-23) Moses & the prophets declared the Christ to come, suffer, die & rise again!

(v24-32) **Argument #3- LOVE-** In Ephesians 4:15 it says to *speaking the truth in love*.

- **The name Arippa means-** One who at His birth causes pain. Paul painfully tried to get this king and others to be born again, but unfortunately his response was “you ALMOST persuade me to become a Christian.”

- King Agrippa**
- Almost opened his eyes to Christ Kingdom!
 - Almost turned from darkness to light!
 - Almost released himself from the power of Satan to God!
 - Almost received forgiveness of sins!
 - Almost received an eternal inheritance!

May you get a grippa (that’s Italian for “get a grip”) on your life by having hope in your heart, by placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and allowing the love of God to overflow you forever! Don’t be almost; make it ALRIGHT!

