

## Acts 26:19-32 “Life on Purpose” 3.22.15

**Intro.** Reaching your community for Christ.

**Subject:** Paul’s Post-Conversion Life

**Object:** Reach your community for Christ

**Context:** Paul’s trial before King Agrippa and Governor Festus. Every testimony has 3 key elements: what it used to be like (2 weeks ago), how you received Christ (last week), and how your life and mission has been changed in Christ (today)

### I. Live on Purpose for Christ – obey the call of Christ

**A. What is the call? [16]** But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

#### 1. Called to serve God by serving others: *minister*, Jn.13:35

Radical love for God and others creates opportunities to share Christ. ? *What are some ways that Christ’s followers can serve other that can reflect the love of Christ?*

**2. Called to bear witness:** testify of your experiences with Jesus, the gospel, and a transformed life in Christ

#### B. How to obey the call [19-32]

**19**“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision: Paul obeyed the call of God – how did he, and how can *you* obey the call?

#### 1. Proclaim the gospel [18, 20-21]

##### a. Forgiveness of sin is available by God’s grace through faith in Christ [18]

To open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me:

**v. 20** that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance:

repentance refers to changing your thinking about your sin and God’s righteousness, and submitting to God’s authority. True repentance is demonstrated by works/actions

**i.** Faith is hearing God speak and responding with acts of obedience and attitudes of dependence

**b. To whoever, wherever God leads you [20]** but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles.

**21**For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill *me*: Persecuted for the gospel. Be prepared for conflict for your faith

? *Who are some of the people and where are some of the places that God has lead you for the purpose of bearing witness to Christ?* [Easter invites, volunteers

#### 2. Persevere [22]

**v.22** Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing: with God’s helping power we can endure and continue to work to reach our community

**Gal. 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.**

**1Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

Trying to reach a community for Christ is difficult. You'll likely be discouraged and want to give up if you try. What encourages you to persevere?

**Demas: an example of one who did not persevere. Regression: Paul refers to Demas as "a fellow laborer" [Philemon 1:24 (59AD)]. Paul was saying that they were in the same league. About a year later, Paul simply says, "and Demas" [Col. 4:14 (60AD)] "Luke the beloved physician and Demas"]. Paul makes no comment about Demas being in the same league. Finally, Paul would write, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world" [2Tim.4:10 (62 AD)]. Demas failed to persevere because he loved this world more than God.**

### **3. Persuade [23-32]**

**a. The gospel is true and reasonable [24-25]** Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"<sup>25</sup>But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. Festus, the Roman Governor, essentially says Paul you're crazy [24]. Paul declares the gospel is truth and reason [25].

i. What makes Biblical Christianity a unique faith: reasoned and reasonable – withstands critical analysis

### **b. The gospel is proven by prophecy [22-23, 26-27]**

**[22] both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come <sup>23</sup>that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the **Gentiles**: Christ's death, resurrection, and the proclamation of the gospel to the Gentiles were all foretold by the prophets.**

**26For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. <sup>27</sup>King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."**

**c. The gospel presentation compels a decision for Christ [28-32]** Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."<sup>29</sup>And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

**30When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; <sup>31</sup>and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."<sup>32</sup>Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."**

i. v.30-32 Paul is determined to be innocent, but his appeal to Caesar results in outreach at Rome [Ac.23:11 fulfilled]

ii. Paul urges a decision for Christ by Agrippa & all who heard gospel @ theatre [29]  
iii. We can't persuade others any more than Paul could persuade Agrippa – work of the HS. But still we are called to persuade [Cause someone to believe by reasoning &/or effort to convince].

iv. Your passion knowledge and experience cause you to be more persuasive.

v. *What are some areas in your life where you are persuasive? [\*favorite Mexican food, Apple or PC, toilet paper over or under ...] How could you use those gifts for the gospel?*

**Ps.34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good** - the simple invitation that flows from experience with Jesus.

## **Discussion Qs**

**1. What are some ways that Christ's followers can serve other that can reflect the love of Christ?**

**2. Who are some of the people and where are some of the places that God has lead you for the purpose of bearing witness to Christ?**

**3. Why is trying to reach a community for Christ difficult? What encourages you to persevere?**

**4. What are some areas in your life where you are persuasive? How could you use those gifts for the gospel?**