

**Christians on Campus**  
**Acts Bible Study**  
**Summer 2020**

**Paul's Testimony**

- I. In Acts 9, the Lord appeared to Paul to bring him into the stream of the Lord's work, making him a minister and a witness both of the things in which Paul had seen Him and of the things in which He would appear to Paul (Acts 26:16).
- II. In Acts 22 and 26, in defending himself before the persecution from the religious Jews, Paul testified concerning his vision and commission.
- A. Paul was not disobedient to the heavenly vision of man as a vessel (Acts 9:15; Rom. 9:21, 23; 2 Cor. 4:7) to contain, be filled with, and express the Triune God, of Christ as the mystery of God (Col. 2:2), and of the church as the Body of Christ, the mystery of Christ (Eph. 3:4; 5:32).
- B. Acts 26:18 reveals the contents of Paul's divine commission:
1. "To open their \_\_\_\_\_"
  2. "To turn them from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_"
  3. "To turn them ...from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_"
  4. "That they may receive \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_"
  5. "That they may receive ...an \_\_\_\_\_"
- (\*After reading the scripture reading below, complete the blanks in 1-5.)

**Scripture Reading:**

**Acts 22:1-21**

*Paul Defending Himself before the Rioting Jews*

<sup>1</sup>Men, brothers and fathers, hear my defense which I now make to you. <sup>2</sup>And when they heard that he addressed them in the Hebrew dialect, they became more quiet. And he said, <sup>3</sup>I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city and trained at the feet of Gamaliel, according to the strictness of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are today.

<sup>4</sup>And I persecuted this Way unto death, binding and delivering to prisons both men and women, <sup>5</sup>as also the high priest and all the assembly of the elders testify for me; from whom I also received letters to the brothers and went to Damascus to bring those also who were there bound to Jerusalem that they might be punished. <sup>6</sup>And as I journeyed and drew near to Damascus about midday, suddenly a great light flashed out of heaven around me; <sup>7</sup>and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? <sup>8</sup>And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus

**Acts 26:1-20**

*Paul Defending Himself before King Agrippa*

<sup>1</sup>And Agrippa said to Paul, You are permitted to speak for yourself. Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: <sup>2</sup>Concerning all the things which I am accused of by the Jews, King Agrippa, I consider myself blessed that I am to make my defense before you today, <sup>3</sup>especially since you are familiar with all the customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. <sup>4</sup>The manner of my life from youth, which from the beginning was among my own nation and in Jerusalem, all the Jews know, <sup>5</sup>since they have previously known about me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived as a Pharisee. <sup>6</sup>And now I stand here being judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers, <sup>7</sup>to which our twelve tribes, earnestly serving night and day, hope to attain. Concerning this hope I am accused by the Jews, O king. <sup>8</sup>Why is it judged incredible among you if God raises the dead?

the Nazarene, whom you persecute. <sup>9</sup>And those who were with me beheld the light, but did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do. <sup>11</sup>And as I could not see because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup>And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well attested to by all the Jews dwelling there, <sup>13</sup>came to me, and standing by, said to me, Saul, brother, receive your sight! And in that very hour I looked up at him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, The God of our fathers has previously appointed you to know His will and to see the righteous One and to hear the voice from His mouth; <sup>15</sup>for you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.

<sup>17</sup>And when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I went into a trance; <sup>18</sup>and I saw Him saying to me, Hurry, and go quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not accept your testimony concerning Me. <sup>19</sup>And I said, Lord, they know that I was imprisoning and beating from synagogue to synagogue those who believe on You; <sup>20</sup>and when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself also was standing by and approving and keeping the garments of those who did away with him. <sup>21</sup>And He said to me, Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles.

<sup>9</sup>Well then, I thought to myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus the Nazarene, <sup>10</sup>which also I did in Jerusalem; and I both shut up many of the saints in prison when I had received authority from the chief priests and cast a vote against them when they were being done away with. <sup>11</sup>And in all the synagogues I punished them often and tried to compel them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged at them, I persecuted them even as far as foreign cities. <sup>12</sup>Engaged in these things, I journeyed to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests. <sup>13</sup>At midday, on the way, I saw, O king, a light from heaven beyond the brightness of the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. <sup>14</sup>And when we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads. <sup>15</sup>And I said, Who are You, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute. <sup>16</sup>But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you; <sup>17</sup>delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you, <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup>but declared both to those in Damascus first and in Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea and to the Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.

### Questions for Discussion:

1. We sectioned Paul's testimony from Acts 22 and 26 by different colors. Compare the account in these two chapters and try to title each section.
2. In Acts 26:19 Paul told King Agrippa that he "was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Paul could not be disobedient to what he had seen. His commission was according to his vision. What is Paul's commission?
3. What is Paul for the carrying out of this commission? (Hints: Acts 9:15; 26:16.) What is the significance of each?
4. The Lord is also calling us today. How can we also fulfill this commission?