

## The Power of the Gospel

2<sup>nd</sup> Account of Paul's Testimony in book of Acts. Also found in Acts 9 and Acts 26

- **Case of Mistaken Identity (21:37–22:2)**
  - They thought Paul was an Egyptian leader of a recent revolt (38)
  - Correction (39)
  - Transition to addressing the crowd (40)
    - Standing on the steps
    - Motioned with his hand
    - A great hush
    - Spoke in the native Jewish tongue (Hebrew)
      - When they heard their native tongue (Hebrew or dialect of Hebrew) they became even more quiet
  - Introduction in 22:1 is same used by Stephen in 7:2
- **Paul's Testimony (22:3–29)**
  - Life before Christ (3–5)
    - Paul had held the same opinions they now held, but . . .
  - Encountering Christ (6–16)
    - Something about that name! (16)
      - Better translated "Having called on His name"
  - Life after Christ (17–21)
    - Not all his problems disappeared (17–18)
    - He still battled with some of the consequences of his sin (19–20)
    - God still had a plan to use him (21)

- We are called to share (22–29)
  - Not a receptive response (22–23)
    - The Jews of Jerusalem had overwhelmingly decided Jesus was not the messiah
      - Religious reasoning
      - Racist reasoning
    - Less than the twenty years later the city and temple they held so dear would lie in ruins. (70 A. D.)
  - Still signs of God’s favor (24–29)
  - Prophecy Paul would testify before rulers
    - **Acts 9:15–16** <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

## Takeaways

- All the religion in the world can’t save a single soul (Paul’s background and preparation)
  - **Ephesians 2:8–9** <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- We must have a genuine encounter with Jesus (Acts 22:16)
  - **John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
  - **Acts 4: 10–12** <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has

become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- **Romans 3:23–24** <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
  - **Romans 5:6–8** <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
  - **Romans 6:23** <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - **Romans 10:9–10** <sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
- God can use us despite past or present circumstances
- It may look different than we want or expect
  - It may be more difficult than we might want
  - He is Worthy!
    - If the Gospel is true, the only proper response is for it to impact every area of our lives/priorities