

Paul: A Preacher on Trial

Introduction: "Many trying experiences and hardships were immediately before [Paul]. In fact, from here to his final martyrdom there was nothing but peril and danger" (McGee).

- I. Before Felix: Wanted a more \_\_\_\_\_ time to receive the gospel (Acts 24).
  - A. Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ of sedition by the Jews.
  - B. He was also falsely accused of polluting the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Paul did take opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ himself from false rumors—he was concerned with having a good testimony.
  - D. But he was not \_\_\_\_\_ to declare the truth of the gospel before authority.
  - E. Having a \_\_\_\_\_ conscience was always Paul's chief goal.
  - F. Felix now had a clear \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel and put the matter on hold keeping Paul in custody.
  - G. Hearing the gospel a second time brought strong \_\_\_\_\_ to Felix.
  - H. Again, he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ for a more convenient time (Heb. 4:7).
- II. Before Festus: Was \_\_\_\_\_ with the gospel (Acts 25).
  - A. Two \_\_\_\_\_ later Festus replaced Felix and Paul was still in custody.
  - B. Festus showed no \_\_\_\_\_ with who Christ was.
  - C. He was \_\_\_\_\_ to pass the whole case on to Caesar.
- III. Before Agrippa: Was \_\_\_\_\_ to receiving the gospel (Acts 26).
  - A. Appearing before a king was a high point in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul.
  - B. Paul was still in good \_\_\_\_\_ even as a prisoner.
  - C. He recognized the great \_\_\_\_\_ he was given to preach to a king.
  - D. He began by sharing his \_\_\_\_\_ testimony.
  - E. Paul was "not \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel of Christ" (Ro. 1:16).
  - F. When we preach the truth of the Word to the lost we may be accused of being \_\_\_\_\_.
  - G. Yet Christianity is a very logical, public, and \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
  - H. Paul even took the opportunity to give a personal \_\_\_\_\_ to the king to receive the gospel.
  - I. Agrippa admitted he was close to believing, but would not make the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - J. "Friend, do you know that you can almost be a Christian and then be lost for time and eternity? How \_\_\_\_\_ that is! Almost will not do. It must be all or nothing. Either you accept Christ or you don't accept Christ" (McGee).

Conclusion: "In our day, friend, there are many witnesses, especially ministers, who are so afraid that they won't appear intellectual, but will be considered fanatical, that they do not declare the great truths of the gospel. Friend, we ought to be willing to take the place of madmen—but not act like them. We should present the gospel as soberly as Paul did" (McGee).