

Paul: A Study in Consistency

Acts 24:1-21

February 21, 2010 (CSBC)

Introduction:

1. Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem
 - a. The Holy Spirit had warned him trouble there. (Acts 20:23)
 - b. The disciples, speaking by the Holy Spirit, told him not to go. (Acts 21:4)
2. Indeed, Paul had trouble there. (Acts 22-23)
 - a. Telling of his conversion brought troubles.
 - b. He appealed his rights as a Roman citizen and was sent to Caesarea.
3. There Paul appears before Felix, the Roman governor and gives us a study in consistency.

READ PASSAGE & PRAY

I. Consistent Persecution (vv. 1-9)

- A. From supposedly educated people
 - a. Tertullus, a lawyer, began by praising Felix
 - b. He brought three false charges against Paul
 - i. Disturbing the peace (v.5)
 - ii. A mover of sedition (v.5)
 - iii. Profaner of the temple (v.6)
- B. From the world around us
 - a. Christians can expect to be falsely accused
 - b. Jesus was so we should expect it
- C. One charge was true...
 - a. Paul was a leader among Christians
 - b. How consistent are you in your Christianity in the face of persecution?

II. Consistent Proclamation (vv.10-15)

- A. He proclaimed his message cheerfully (v.10)
 - a. Some might have given into discouragement
 - b. Some may have bitter toward their accusers

- B. He proclaimed his message truthfully (vv. 11-13)
 - a. He had not gone to Jerusalem to cause a riot
 - b. He had gone to worship
- C. He proclaimed His faith in Christ (vv. 14-15)
 - a. He insisted that he worshiped according to the words of the prophets.
 - b. He admitted that he believed in the resurrection of the just and the unjust
- D. His proclamation made those who heard it accountable to God.

III. Consistent Presentation (vv.16-21)

- A. Paul presents his life's mission statement
 - a. A clear conscience before God and man
 - b. To be right with people
 - c. How does the way we present ourselves to others measure up?
- B. Paul went to present alms and offerings
 - a. To the poor
 - b. At the temple
 - c. A consistent presentation of stewardship
- C. Paul continued his consistent presentation of the importance of the death and resurrection of Christ

Conclusion:

1. How consistent are you?
2. Are you consistent in remaining Christ-like in times of trial and persecution?
3. Are you consistent in what you proclaim to others?
4. Are you consistent in the way yourself to others?